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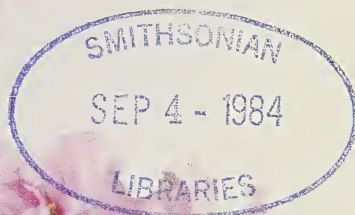
African Violet MAGAZINE

Volume 31

Number 1

January, 1978

PART I OF II PARTS



*The
Trend
is
Miniature*

Strictly Business — Your Business

INFORMATION FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH YOUR SOCIETY TO INSURE GOOD SERVICE
IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE ITEM SEND EACH ITEM TO THE CORRECT PERSON
ALWAYS GIVE YOUR NAME AND COMPLETE ADDRESS

AVSA Membership: Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewal membership to AVSA Treasurer, AVSA office. Life - \$100; Commercial - \$15; Individual - \$6.

AFFILIATES: Chapter - \$6; Council, State or Region - \$15.
PLEASE INCLUDE THIS INFORMATION: Affiliate name; president's name and address; address to which magazine is to be sent; name of town considered home town of affiliate.

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION: Send ideas, offers to help, request for assistance to Mrs. Harold Rienhardt, 4463 W. Seneca Trk., Syracuse, NY 13215

AVSA OFFICE: Mrs. Clarice Bell, Office Manager, Box 1326, Knoxville, TN 37901

AVSA EMBLEMS: See Jan. issue - Member, Past President, Life Member pins. Own and wear them with pride. Order from AVSA office.

AFFILIATES: For information on show awards, how to organize a chapter, or membership questions, write Mrs. Wayne W. Schroeder, 1739 N. 74th Ct., Elmwood Park, IL 60635. *Send officer information sheet received with charter to Mrs. Schroeder by July 1.*

BEST VARIETIES - HONOR ROLL COMPILER: Mrs. Leon Fiedler, Rt. 1, Prescott, WI 54021

BOOSTER FUND: Send contributions to Mrs. W. M. Plaster, 8304 Suffolk Dr., Shreveport, LA 71106

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND: Send contributions, club or individual, to Mrs. L. F. Lidiak, 4503 Sinclair Ave., Austin, TX 78756

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COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES: Albert Buell, Box 218, Eastford, CT 06242

COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Jimmy Watson, 1361 Madison Ave., Apt. 2-AA, New York, NY 10028

CONVENTION:

AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Mrs. R. A. Chase, 482 Rutherford Ave., Redwood City, CA 94061 by Sept. 1.

PROGRAM: Mar. issue. Send special requests for workshop programs; suggest names of interesting speakers to Mrs. J.A.W. Richardson, RR 1, Box 70, Tavares, FL 32778.

SCHEDULE: Jan. issue.

TIME AND PLACE: If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Mrs. H. Harold Baker, 2128 Stanford Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105

CULTURE FOLDERS: Use for shows, with sales, or wherever memberships may be solicited. Membership application included. Free from AVSA office. Please state quantity required.

JUDGING SCHOOL: For information on holding a school or becoming a qualified judge, write Mrs. James B. Carey, 3900 Garden Dr., Knoxville, TN 37918

LIBRARY: Order AVSA Library slide programs and packets from AVSA office. List in June issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Harvey Stone, 51 Peach Highlands, Marblehead, MA 01945

MAGAZINE:

EDITOR: Mrs. Grace Foote, 211 Allien Pl., Port Arthur, TX 77640

ADVERTISING MANAGER: For advertising rates and copy information write Mrs. Terrance R. Leary, 2088 Illinois Ave., NE, St. Petersburg, FL 337034

AFFILIATE 'APPENINGS: Send to Editor.

ARTICLES: Send to Editor

DEADLINE DATES: JUNE issue, Mar. 1; SEPT. issue, June 1; NOV. issue, Aug. 1; JAN. issue, Oct. 1; MAR. issue, Dec. 1.

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CUMULATIVE INDEX: Order from AVSA office.

QUESTION BOX: Anne Tinari, 2325 Valley Road, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

MAGAZINE MART: To buy or sell copies of the *African Violet Magazine*, contact Mrs. E. A. Nelson, 603 E. Essex Ave., St. Louis, MO 63122

MASTER VARIETY LIST: Number 3 (1976) \$3.50. A must for judges, exhibitors, serious growers. Describes all varieties registered to June 1, 1976, all recognized species, and non-registered cultivars introduced from 1966 to June 1, 1976. Order from AVSA office.

SUPPLEMENT: Send any correction and/or description of new cultivar with hybridizer's name to Plant Registration Chairman.

MINIATURE & SEMIMINIATURE VARIETY LIST: \$2. Mrs. Sidney Bogin, 39 Boyd St., Long Beach, NY 11561

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE: AVSA Secretary, Mrs. H. N. Hansen, 708 Wyndale Rd., Jenkintown, PA 19046

PARLIAMENTARIAN: Mrs. Thomas J. Edmundson, 4605 NW 45th St., Tamarac, FL 33319 is available to answer parliamentary questions for affiliates. Send S.A.S.E. for reply.

PLANT REGISTRATION: Mrs. Fred Tretter, 4988 Schollmeyer Ave., St. Louis, MO 63109

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research, or names of interested qualified potential research personnel to Frank Tinari, 2325 Valley Rd., Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

WATCH FOR SPECIAL INFORMATION IN THESE

ISSUES: AFFILIATE LIST - Nov.; BEST VARIETIES LIST - Nov.; BYLAWS - Sept.; CUMULATIVE INDEX - Jan.; HONOR ROLL - June; JUDGES & TEACHERS - Nov.; LIBRARY PROGRAMS - June; LIFE MEMBERS - June; MASTER VARIETY SUPPLEMENT - Sept.; MINUTES - Sept.; NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT - Jan.; OFFICERS & COMMITTEES - June; SHOW & JUDGES RULES - Sept.; TALLY TIME - Mar.; TREASURER'S & AUDITOR'S REPORT - Sept.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the method and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

PERTAINING TO VIOLETS

4. By a Mini: Up the Ladder to Success—Montine (Monty) Dale, Denver, CO
6. The Mighty Mini—Mrs. Sidney Bogin, Long Beach, NY
7. Growing African Violets From Seed—Ronn Nadeau, St. Louis, MO
8. A Fading Beauty Candidate for Cosmetic Surgery—Mrs. D. J. Lidiak, Austin, TX
11. Long petioles
12. Springtails
12. Fertilizer Salts
14. Texas Pots—Dr. Alvin W. Shultz, Prairie Village, KA
15. Best Varieties List: Send Your Choices—Mrs. Leon Fiedler, Prescott, WI
16. Species Collection Seen at Convention
18. Violets Are Her Trademark—E. Margaret Spafford, Janesville, WI
21. Be Humane!—Jan McDonald, Brownwood, TX
22. Leaf Propagation of African Violets—Mrs. James B. Whitaker, Merritt Island, FL
24. Demons In Your Collection—Dr. Horace Nelson, Troy, AL
27. Violet Named for David Pryor, Governor of Arkansas
27. Curling Foliage
30. Do I Really Need This?—Sandra M. Lex, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
31. Lighting
33. Pamper Your Violets in a Strawberry Jar—Carl H. Clawson, Jr., Rockville, MD
36. Wick Watering—Betsy Evans, Tucson, AZ
36. Humidity
36. Do You Know?
39. "Ruth"—Mrs. K. (Sharon) Dick, Rockville, MD
39. Dusty Tubes
40. Enough Light?
41. The Know—No Season Violet—Rhoda Retkovis
51. Mildew
55. Husband Fashions Wrought Iron Shelf—Maradell Bird
55. The Do's and the Don'ts
56. Her Way With Violets—Mrs. Rose Benke, Aurora, IL
58. Mrs. O. D. St. Clair Gives Advice on Growing Violets
59. How About Making Your Own AV Pots?—Howard S. Knaack, Lake Bluff, IL
62. Violets on Wheels—Laila M. Whitfield, Marquette, MI
64. Affiliate 'Appenings
69. Plants Have Way of Talking—Edgar Weaver, Beaumont, TX
70. Coming Events
71. African Violets Go To Church—Mrs. Ed R. Davis, Montevallo, AL

COLUMNISTS

3. Letter from AVSA President—Mrs. E. A. (Melva) Nelson, St. Louis, MO.

6. Cross Your I's . . . and Dot Your T's—Mrs. W. F. Anderson, St. Louis, MO.
12. Musings From the 'Mini-Mam'—Mrs. Sidney (Ellie) Bogin, Long Beach, NY
13. AVSA Affiliates—Mrs. Wayne (Mildred) Schroeder, Elmwood Park, IL
19. Question Box—Anne Tinari, Huntingdon Valley, PA
23. Your Library—Harvey L. Stone, Marblehead, MA
26. Boyce Edens Research Fund—Mrs. L. F. Lidiak, Austin, TX
26. AVSA Booster Fund—Mrs. Lucile Plaster, Shreveport, LA
27. Beginners' Column—Mrs. J.A.W. (Ann) Richardson, Tavares, FL
37. Registration Report—Mrs. Fred (Adele) Tretter, St. Louis, MO
56. A Foote on the Violet Path—Grace Foote, Port Arthur, TX

CONVENTION

40. Highlights, Programwise for Austin Convention—Mrs. J.A.W. Richardson, Convention program chairman
40. Attention: Qualified Judges!
40. Reservations for Class in the Design Division
41. Advance Registration for Judging School for New and Refresher Judges
41. Show Hosts and Hostesses
42. Tours for 1978 Convention—Mary Ann Nelson, Tour Chairman
44. Call for 1978 Annual Meeting
44. Call for 1978 Board of Directors Meeting
44. Hotel Reservation for 1978 Convention
45. AVSA Convention Registration Form
46. Y'All Come to Texas—Rosemary Thompson, publicity chairman
48. Convention Show Schedule
50. Amateur Division: Rules and Regulations
50. Commercial Show Schedule
51. 1978 Nominating Committee Report
52. The 1978 Conventnion Show: Society Awards
52. Special Amateur Awards: Horticulture Division
53. Designated Plant Awards
54. Design Division
54. Special Commercial Awards

MISCELLANEOUS

8. Short Course at Botanic Garden
15. Want to Join Club?
27. Is This Your Article?
47. How's Your pH?

SOCIETY BUSINESS

23. Judges' School
27. New Life Member
69. AVSA Emblems
69. Officers' Names
84. Statement of Ownership and Circulation

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

African Violet Society of America, Inc.
P. O. Box 1326
Knoxville, TN 36901

Date _____

Please enroll me as a member of African Violet Society of America, Inc. My dues are enclosed. Memberships are defined below. Membership year March 1 to February 28 includes five issues of the AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE beginning with the June issue, followed by September, November, January and March issues.

- ☐ Individual Membership is \$6.00
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From November 16 through February 28, new members may pay half the annual dues, will receive membership card expiring February 28 and the January and March issues of the AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE \$3.00.

OUR COVER PAGE

Miniatures are rapidly coming to the fore in the African violet world. Pictured on our Cover Page today are four of the lovely little plants. They are, top, Lyon's 'Denim Blue', center (left) 'Little Critter' and (right) 'Little Jim', bottom, 'Little Rascal'. (Photo by Frank Burton)

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STAFF

MRS. GRACE FOOTE, Editor	
211 Allien Place	
Port Arthur, TX 77640	
MRS. TERRANCE R. LEARY, Adv. Mgr.	
2088 Illinois Ave., NE	
St. Petersburg, FL 33703	
MRS. CLARICE BELL	
Office Manager	
P. O. Box 1326	
Knoxville, TN 37901	
MRS. W. F. ANDERSON	
AVSA Publications Chairman	
360 Tulip Drive	
St. Louis, MO 63119	

COLUMNISTS

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PUBLISHER

Gus Becker Printing Co.
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ADVERTISERS' INDEX

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82. American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society — Membership Invitation
80. Mrs. W. F. Anderson — Return address labels
85. Annalee Violetry—Early Bird Special
72. Arndt's African Violets
80. AVSA Binders—Come only in pairs
- INSIDE BACK COVER—Baker's African Violets—Violets with PIZZAZZ!
82. Barbara's—Over 500 varieties of African violets
72. Barrington Industries: Greenhouse and Garden supply catalog
74. Becker Printing Company—African violet notepaper
75. Boswell & Barnard—African violets, orchids, exotic plants
82. Cape Cod Violetry—Latest varieties
79. Ruth Carey's Revised Handbook for Judges and Exhibitors
88. Champion's African Violets—Champion variegates for 1978
80. Cindy's Violetry—1978 releases
81. Clarel Laboratories, Inc.—Granny's Bloomers
86. Corbin's African Violets
78. Crestwood Violetry—None but the best
84. DoDe's Gardens—Growing supplies and fertilizers
75. Earth Flowers—African violet starter plants, gift plants
86. Violets at the Ernst's—Leaves and plants
73. FloraCart Watering Wand—Popular accessory for your FloraCart
84. FloraLite Company—Lumen lighter stands
75. Fran's Fernnery—Violets by Fran
83. Fredette Originals—Allegro Plant Tonic
88. Gone To Pot Nursery & Supply—Plastic pots, hanging baskets
76. Granger Gardens—Millie Blair and other beautiful show plants
80. The Green House—Green House Gro-Cart
79. Pamela Groff—Reigning violets
79. Heavenly Violets—Fresh cut leaves and episcias
79. Phyllis Holzem—300 varieties of African violets
75. Home Grow Products—Enjoy a FloraCart
82. House of Violets—House of Violets Introductions
86. House of Violets—Moist Rite Self-Watering Planters
81. Indoor Gardening Supplies—Plant stand, light fixtures
86. Jacksons House of Violets—New and older varieties
81. Jump Off Earthworm Farm—Earthworm castings
86. Kitty's African Violets—Fresh cut leaves
86. Constance R. Koch—AV seeds
81. Carol Kowalski—Bright Blossoms Greenhouse
73. Albert Kreiger—African violet starter plants
82. Sandra Leary—In Florida
86. Leix's Village Violetry—Choice varieties
86. Little Violet House—Leaves and newest varieties from leading hybridizers
80. Lloyd's African Violets—Variegated and green starter plants
80. Louise's Greenhouse—African violets, leaves and episcias
79. Mary's African Violets—Growing supplies, books on gardening
77. R. J. Miderski—African violets
81. Miller's African Violets—Specialists in variegates
78. Ronn Nadeau St. Louis Violet Nurseries—Hybrid African violet seeds
86. Peg Mitchell's Violet Farm—Fredette Originals, accessories, new varieties
74. Plant Marvel Laboratories—Feed as you water
75. Plant Palace
77. Plant Place—African violets and other choice plants
73. Plantsmith, Inc.—Spoonit Plant Food
73. Poyner's Greenhouse—African violets and related plants
71. Re-Jewa-tone—Triple strength vitamin
79. Rhonda's African Violets—Fresh cut leaves and plants
84. Rose Knoll Gardens—Our own Illini series and varieties by leading hybridizers
88. San Francisco Plant Co.—African violets, episcians, many miniatures
75. Schultz Instant Food
88. Sheri's Greenhouses—African violets
79. L. R. Smith—African violet needlepoint pillow
77. Strickland Greenhouse—African violets
- BACK COVER—Tinari Greenhouses—Choose books to bring knowledge and produce good growing results
84. Tingle's—Leaves, starter plants, gift plants
88. Tomara African Violets—New Fredette Originals, FloraCart and TubeCraft products
73. TubeCraft Watering Wand
86. Violet Buds and Blossoms—Miniatures, variegates, standards, supplies
74. Violet Depot—Parson's Series
81. Violet Fantasia—New and unique African Violets for 1978
86. Violet Fun—New varieties
87. The Violet House—Plastic flower pots
72. Violet Room—Soilwash, 100% Safe
72. Violet Room—Green Gold Soilwash
82. The Violet Room—Rare and unusual African violets
75. Violet Village—More bloomin' varieties
79. Violet-Ville—New varieties, miniatures, variegates
77. Violets Atlanta—Presenting the Do Series, Jim Wright hybridizer
88. Violets Etc.—plants and supplies
82. The Walkers—AV supplies, pesticides, pots

Letter From The AVSA President



Dear AVSA Friends:

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I do so hope 1978 WILL be a happy one for each of you.

After all of the excitement and exhilaration of the holidays, January is apt to be a time of the blahs, when everything just seems sort of Ho-Hum. A good picker-upper would be to begin planning on attending the Austin Convention next April. The program sounds great, so do come join in the fun.

Then there's another suggestion for possibly extending your Texas visit. From April 15-25, San Antonio will present a truly Texas spectacular entitled, "The Battle of Flowers", with a variety of beautiful programs offered all day and night. April 21 will be San Jacinto Day, in celebration of Texas' independence from Mexico. If you are interested, a letter addressed to the San Antonio Convention & Visitors Bureau, P. O. Box 2277, San Antonio, TX 78298, will bring you complete information on programs and housing. Because of the popularity of this affair, reservations would need to be made well in advance.

I regret to tell you that due to illness, Mrs. M. G. Gonzales, Chairman of Best Varieties-Honor Roll Committee, has found it necessary to resign. It has been accepted with sincere regret, as Madeline has handled this tedious and painstaking job of sorting through all of those lists of 25 Favorite Varieties from the Affiliates and compiling a composite list of the year's BEST VARIETIES to publish in the November magazine. Thank you for a job well done, Madeline.

Mrs. Leon Fiedler, one of our new Directors, has kindly consented to take over this chairmanship. Please do not send your new list of 25 Favorites to Mrs. Gonzales — they must be sent to Mrs. Leon Fiedler, Rt. 1, Prescott, Wisconsin 54021.

With all good wishes,

Melva

By a Mini . . . UP THE LADDER TO SUCCESS

Montine (Monty) Dale
1432 West 103rd Ave.
Denver, CO 80221

(Drawings by Lucy Stover)

I just won first place as best mini at the AVSA Convention Show.

When I, a seed, was planted, I was disheartened. How could I being so tiny ever amount to anything — but remembering that “mighty oaks from little acorns grow,” I took heart.

I don't know who my parents were, am not in the violet blue blood category but I'm proud to be what I am. I could say I am a self-made mini what with the care and TLC given me by Miss Amy, my owner.

Using a small cottage cheese carton, Miss Amy filled it about three-fourths full with the same potting soil she used for all her violets. This she

disappoint her — I'd do my best to deserve her trust in me.

A few weeks later I boasted of four healthy leaves. (Figure 3.) It was now time for me to be

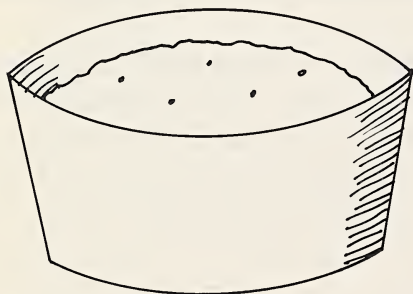


Fig. 1

moistened with WARM water. Then very carefully she placed me and several other mini seeds on this pressing us very gently so as not to cover us. We were then covered with plastic and placed about 7 to 10 inches under fluorescent lights for 14 hours a day. (Figure 1.)

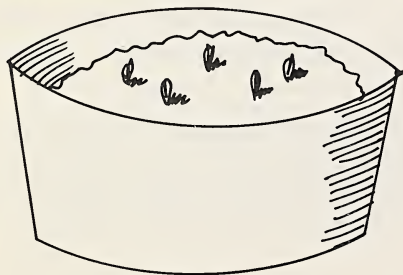


Fig. 2

In about two weeks or so I sprouted. (Figure 2.) When Miss Amy saw it, she removed the plastic cover and assured me I'd be a beautiful mini some day. Right then I made up my mind not to

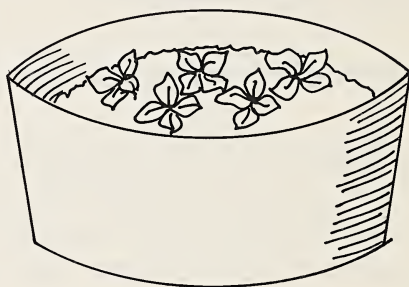


Fig. 3

planted in my permanent home — a 2½ inch container; minis should never be planted in anything larger as they could easily become semis. Miss Amy used a plastic bath room cup. Using a hot ice pick, she punched several holes in the bottom for drainage; This she covered with several pieces of crushed clay pots. Next she filled it to ½" of the top with good potting soil to which she had added a small amount of charcoal and enough perlite, vermiculite and peat moss to make a loamy mixture.

Removing me gently from my nursery, she tucked me into the hole she had made in the center of the cup — large enough to accomodate my roots without crowding. (Figure 4.) When I

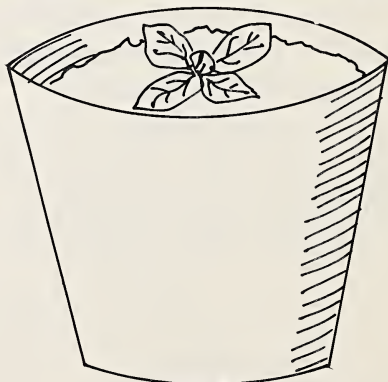


Fig. 4

was firmed in place with my crown above soil level, she watered me thoroughly with WARM water containing a small amount of good plant food — ¼ teaspoon full to one gallon water. After cutting two small holes in the top corners of a plastic bag for ventilation, she placed it over me. Then came the moment I had been waiting for. Miss Amy found a place for me among her other minis 7 to 10" under fluorescent lights which she kept on 14 hours a day. When she thought I was well established, she removed the plastic cover.

Miss Amy checked me daily keeping an eye out for bugs, the first sign of disease and so on. When my soil became dry to the touch, she watered and fed me. She thought a steady diet was better than too much food at intervals which could burn my leaves. Never did she leave me sitting in it for fear I would get crown rot! causing my death.

Excesses in temperature one way or the other I can adapt to fairly well, but I thrive best in 70 to 75 degrees with a 5 to 10 degree drop at night. Miss Amy watched this very carefully.

Fresh air is beneficial to my health so long as it doesn't blow directly on me. Miss Amy aired the house every day except in cold weather; then she opened the windows in an adjacent room allowing the air to warm before reaching me.

Humidity is necessary for my proper growth — between 50 and 60 degrees is about right. That was no problem; Miss Amy has a humidifier.

Miss Amy is a very meticulous person and seldom did I get dusty but occasionally she gave me a refreshing bath. Holding me over the kitchen sink; she used a gentle WARM spray tilting me slightly to keep the water off my crown.

Under Miss Amy's TLC (she even talks to me) I flourished and grew to be a fine mini. And if I do say so myself I think I cut quite a figure.

Finally the day of "reckoning" arrived. It was time for the AVSA Violet Convention Show. Miss Amy was all aflutter and I was scared half out of my blossoms, having never been away from home.

Arriving at the show room, Miss Amy entered me in the proper class and I was taken to my place on a display table, she was no doubt saying a little prayer.

When the judges had finished their job and the show room was opened officially, the exhibitors hurried in to see how their entries had fared. (Figure 5.) I could hardly wait for Miss Amy to see the ribbon I won for being the best mini in the show. As for me I felt like dancing! (A mini — dancing?) My joy was nothing compared to hers. Wiping her eyes, she looked me straight in the blossoms and said softly, "You will have lovely babies some day."



Fig. 5

If and when I do have babies, I'll tell you about them. In the meantime I am very grateful for having made it "UP THE LADDER TO SUCCESS."

Sincerely yours, A. Mini



BEST ARRANGEMENT—'Libra's Longistics' was the title of the best arrangement at the First Austin AVS show. Mrs. B. A. Wilkins entered the arrangement. (Photo by Leary).

THE MIGHTY MINI

Mrs. Sidney (Ellie) Bogin
39 Boyd Street
Long Beach, NY 11561

The over 200 miniatures and semiminiatures at the St. Louis Convention were one of the biggest eyecatchers. Rows and rows of the beautiful little ones had everybody drooling.

These are some of the blue ribbon winners, plants that consistently make good show plants:

'Denim Blue' - Lyon - semi — A medium blue double on really dark glossy semigirl foliage. It blooms easily, heavily and shapes itself beautifully. One of my favorites.

'Little Delight' - Lyon - semi — It really is a delight. The foliage is shiny and glossy. The double white blooms with ruffled purple edges are different and profuse.

'Little Rascal' - Lyon - mini — It is named well. A saucy looking little plant with semidouble blue splashed with pink blooms that sit high on tailored well formed foliage.

'Midget Midnight' - Champion - mini — One of the prettiest of the variegated minis. A royal blue single on a tiny tailored leaved plant that does nicely in a 2 1/4" pot. Variegation is usually good in cool weather.

'Lil Critter' - Lyon - mini — A new one from the evergrowing Lyon collection. A double lavender pink with huge blooms on small flat girl foliage. Five

blooms can cover the entire plant.

'Dancing Doll' - Lyon - semi — An outstanding beauty from a few years ago. Bright pink heavy blooming double on ovate foliage.

'Dora Baker' - Lorenzen - semi — Another pink double but entirely different from 'Dancing Doll'. Also a heavy bloomer and a consistent winner. Tailored dark foliage.

'Little Jim' - Maas - semi — This one I consider one of the best double pinks from the same man who gave us 'Little Red'. It is pictured on the cover and I am thrilled because that is my plant. It can have 25 to 35 blooms on it at one time. A real stunner.

'Knee High' - Lyon - mini — Dark, dark almost black green foliage with a beautiful red double bloom. Very eyecatching!

'Sweet Pixie' - Swift - semi — An outstanding light pink double on tailored foliage and an extremely heavy bloomer.

'Little Precious' - Volkmann - mini — It really is precious. It is a double pale orchid spotted with blue. A very appealing fantasy.

There is just not enough room to describe all the other tiny beauties. Why not try to collect a few of these winners and perhaps your 'wee one' will add to the beauty at the Austin, Texas convention?

CROSS YOUR I's . . . and DOT YOUR T's . . .

Mrs. W. F. Anderson
360 Tulip Drive
St. Louis, MO 63119

Schedules have style. When writing a schedule, be conscious of style and be consistent.

Style may be defined as the custom or plan followed in spelling, capitalization, and punctuation as sanctioned by some standard. Styles change and may vary according to the authority chosen to set the standard. An up-to-date dictionary is a helpful source of information when in doubt. Look in the back of the dictionary for detailed explanation about punctuation.

The hyphen is often overworked. As a refresher these words, used frequently when referring to African violet plants or pertaining to affiliate activities, are neither hyphenated nor separated but are written as one word: disbud, reroot, repot, soilless,

cleanup, nonmember, bylaws, yearbook.

Both semiminature and semidouble are written as one word without a hyphen. Tricolor is another word that is not hyphenated.

Words that need the hyphen are two-tone, vice-chairman, vice-president, co-host, co-workers, but not cochairmen. Point scored is not hyphenated but the hyphen is used in point-score sheets, or point-scoring.

Decide what authority will set the style, then be consistent. We follow a standard in the *African Violet Magazine*. Won't you promote a high standard when writing your schedules and yearbooks? Above all use AVSA as one word, all capitals, no separation and no periods between the letters.

GROWING AFRICAN VIOLETS FROM SEED

Ronn Nadeau
48 Queensbrook
St. Louis, MO 63132

Growing from seed is not the easiest way to grow violets but it is interesting and often rewarding. Some people just drop the seeds on the soil, water them once in a while, leave them alone, and have amazing success. I do it more scientifically, and have experimented to find the best conditions that work the most consistently. This is because I have a lot of customers that buy seed from me and I take a close interest in whether or not they get good results. Following are the directions that I have found best.

1. Sprinkle seeds on surface of moist soil or soilless mix and press down lightly. Do not cover the seeds with soil and do not plant in plain vermiculite. Mist the soil right after planting. A 4½ inch tub is what I use for sowing 100 seeds.

2. Keep the pot at 75 to 85°F, preferably close to 80°. Cooler temperatures will definitely slow germination or prevent it altogether.

3. Maintain sown seeds in a moist terrarium type atmosphere. For example, cover the pot with plastic or Saran Wrap®. Keep covered at all times, until seedlings are at least 1 inch tall.

4. Put freshly planted seeds where they will get full strength fluorescent light, such as you would give a mature plant. If fluorescent light is not available window light will do, but beware of cool temperatures on window sills.

5. Water when necessary by misting with a solution that contains ¼ teaspoon of Rapid-Gro per gallon of water. Watering will not often be necessary if the pot is kept covered.

6. Be patient. Different crosses take different times to germinate. Variegated crosses take longer to sprout and grow more slowly than regular variety crosses. Most crosses, under the ideal conditions described above, will begin to germinate in 2 — 3 weeks.

7. Transplant seedlings when they have 4 — 6 leaves and can easily be handled. If you have



SEEDLINGS: These are seedlings 6 weeks after sowing. At this stage they could be transplanted to individual tiny pots. But it is easier to let them get bigger, 10 to 12 weeks old, and transplant them directly into 3½ inch pots.

planted them in a 4½ inch tub they will be crowded by this time, but that is OK.

8. Last but not least, when the seedlings get to be about 4 — 6 inches across and near ready to bloom, they will almost always put out a set of suckers. These should be removed.

Before you know it your plants will be budded and then the fun really starts. One of my customers, who also does pottery, wrote to me saying that when his seedlings are budded and ready to open, it's like when he opens the door to his kiln to see whether the glaze is just ordinary or awe inspiring.

And oh yes, one final thing you are probably wondering about: how long does it take to go from violet seed to a blooming plant? That varies depending on your conditions and the cross, but on the average it takes about 5 — 6 months, and that is not much different than from leaves.

WHITING

Whiting is a form of calcium carbonate and its chemical properties are therefore those of limestone. In a soil mixture whiting is more effective than ground limestone because the particles are much smaller. Whiting can be purchased at paint and hardware stores. If whiting is not available, it is permissible to use ground limestone in your soil mixture but not dehydrated lime.

LIGHTING

Balanced lighting increases the number of buds and blooms on a plant by more than 50%.

A FADING BEAUTY CANDIDATE FOR COSMETIC SURGERY?

Mrs. D. J. Lidiak
4503 Sinclair Ave.
Austin, TX 78756

Has the beauty turned into a beast? Isn't that the way we each feel at times about that very special African violet that has formed an unsightly neck? Since it is (or was) so extraordinary, throwing the plant away is just too traumatic to consider — so what do we do?

Having grown violets for a number of years I reached two basic concepts: 1) a plant is at its very best when it has gained full maturity (1½ - 2 years) — whether you are growing for your own enjoyment or for show; and 2) there are superior strains of almost all varieties, making some good specimen most desirable to keep in a collection.

After having completely severed the root system and rerooted the old stem in water or removed an inch or so of the root ball and set the plant down; I came to the conclusion that there just had to be a better way. The shock a plant sustains from either of the aforementioned methods can cause mutation or sporting, defeating the whole purpose of the project.

The method I am about to describe is one I have worked on and refined for approximately four years. Experienced growers in this area were asked to try it as I wished to have the method tested under varying environmental conditions and growing methods. Now I feel that it has become widely enough used with success that it can be shared on a broader basis.

Because I will be going into explicit detail for the reader's benefit, the process may sound somewhat

complicated; it is not as tedious as it might seem. There are two phases to the program — each one will consume about 20 - 30 minutes if done properly, and certainly a "very special" plant deserves that much consideration. The 2 - 3 month time-lag between the two phases is not disagreeable; the method allows one to enjoy the beauty of the plant while the new root system is forming. I have informally displayed plants with their neck-collar in place, and the casual observer was never the wiser — the foliage and blooms can be just as beautiful as ever.

It is strongly suggested that you study each phase carefully to familiarize yourself with it before the process is begun. Also, have all the needed materials at hand before you start — time is of the essence in certain of the steps.

Phase 1 APPLYING THE NECK-COLLAR

Step A. Preparing the plant

1. Remove the bottom leaves until the plant is symmetrical and approximately 2" of the main stem is exposed. (See Figure 1). The blooms and/or buds



Figure No. 1

A free horticultural short course will be held in three one-hour segments on "Propagation and Maintenance of Foliage Houseplants" at the U.S. Botanic Garden in Washington, D.C.

If any African violet growers are interested and live in the Washington, D.C. area, you're invited to attend the classes in the display wing of the Botanic Garden Conservatory, located on First Street and Maryland Avenue. Dates are: Jan. 7-21; Jan. 21-28, and Feb. 4-11.

may remain on the plant. Three or four rows of leaves should be maintained, and the plant be kept at about 12" in diameter for appearance sake.

2. Lightly scrape the exposed neck, removing heavy scaling from the surface. Do not go too deep.

Short Course at Botanic Garden

Remove enough surface matter for the stem to be relatively smooth with some fresh material showing. Using a small water-color brush, apply the following mixture to lightly cover the bare-neck surface: 1/3 part fermate, 1/3 part wettable sulphur; 1/3 part talc (body powder will do.)

3. Allow the fermate-sulphur-talc mixture to dry well — at least an hour (overnight is fine.)

Step B. Preparing and attaching the neck-collar.

1. Using a styrofoam cup which is as straight-sided as possible, remove the bottom, and then cut it into halves. (Figure 2). This collar should be approximately 2" deep (each plant will vary in need, so pre-judge before cutting — remember, it can always be trimmed. BE SURE TO RECORD THE DATE ON THE COLLAR.



Figure No. 2

2. Gently working the collar halves under the bottom row of leaves, reunite them to encircle the pretreated neck.

3. If you normally wick-water pull two or three strands of wicking up and over the top of the neck collar. (Figure 3)

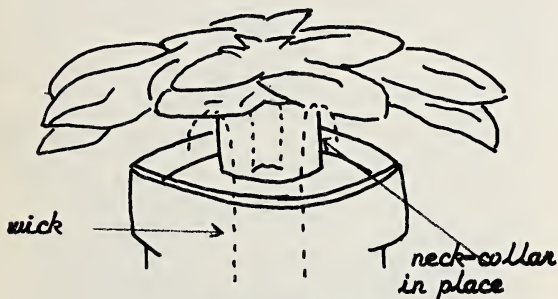


Figure No. 3

4. With the bare neck as nearly in the center of the collar as possible, fasten the halves firmly with masking tape. Use a piece at the top and bottom on both side seams. (Figures 3 and 4)

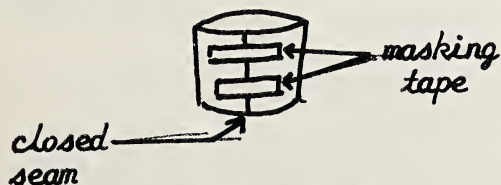
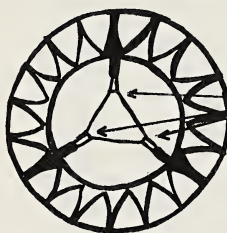


Figure No. 4

5. Fill the neck-collar with a soilless rooting mix* The Lyndon Lyon Soilless Mix works well. This formula is as follows: 4 parts vermiculite, 2 parts milled sphagnum moss, 1 part perlite, and 1/2 part horticulture charcoal.

6. Pull the wicks down to just below the rooting-mix surface, then water until nicely moist (not drenched). If the plant is not being wick-watered, remember to keep this area moist during the entire rooting period with light top watering.

7. Fit a leaf support under the plant. This is best rested on the top surface of the styrofoam neck-collar. The support will protect the symmetry while avoiding petiole droop. A bit of ingenuity may be needed here, but three "Baggie-ties" can reduce the support-band size on the Elisa's AV Rings to serve this purpose. (Figure 5 and Picture No. 1). Other



Points at which ties may be used to reduce holding area of support.

Figure No. 5



No. 1—"Fanfare" pictured from underneath to show neck-collar and fitted support ring during rooting process.

types of supports should be equally adaptable.

8. Allow 2-3 months for the roots to fill the neck-collar. The root system may be checked periodically by cutting the tape at one of the side seams. Important: If rooting mix is not kept damp, the roots cannot form!

*Roots will develop better in a soilless mix than one containing humus.

Phase II REPOTTING THE PLANT

Step A. Preparing the plant.

1. After the root system has filled the neck-collar allow the plant to dry to a good soil-moisture level — slightly damp and easily crumbled. This is important for two reasons: 1) the plant will not suffer from shock as easily if it is not overly wet, and 2) the leaves will be less turgid and not as prone to snap when the plant is handled.

2. After the 2-3 month growth period the plant most probably needs more bottom leaves removed. Retaining the symmetry, remove the necessary petioles. Remember — you will have a smaller root system, so the amount of foliage must be kept in proportion to it. In other words, follow the principle that applies to any plant — what you see above soil is what you have below. Usually, about a 12"-diameter plant is workable at this point.

3. Apply the fermate-sulphur-talc mixture to the area where the petioles were removed.

Step B. Readyng the materials needed.

1. Prepare a new pot by your usual method. Choose one that is at least one size smaller—two sizes if possible. However, the size needed is going to be determined by the amount of root system that will be retained on the plant. (Step C 1. and 2.)* It is not a bad idea to have a pot of both sizes ready.

2. Cut a 12"-diameter circle of cotton cheese cloth (one thickness), dampen and spread on a flat surface. Sprinkle damp rooting mix over this cloth to within about 1" from the side edges. Use enough to form a 1/8 - 1/4" layer over the area. (Figure 6).

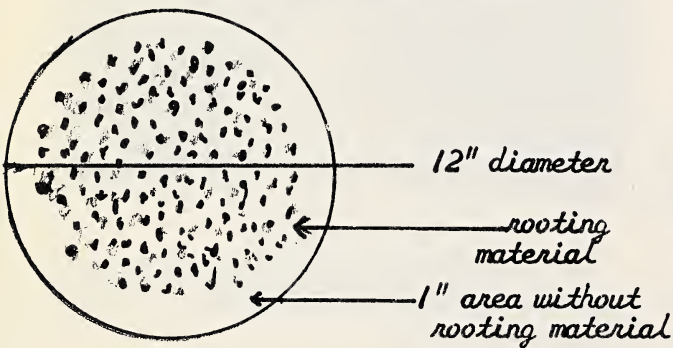


Figure No. 6

3. Remove the styrofoam neck-collar and the support ring from the plant.

Step C. Detaching the old root system.

1. Using a sharp knife sever the main stem at the soil line. The tool you use should be as narrow as

*All references made to certain steps are those appearing in Phase II.

possible yet strong enough to perform well. Avoid cutting any more roots than necessary; exert just enough movement to sever the stem.

2. After the main stem has been freed, gently lift the plant from the old soil. Let any roots that will come with it. **DO THIS VERY GENTLY!** Avoid destroying any more good roots than necessary. It is at this stage that a mellow soil (Step A, 1.) is most important.

3. Remove any dead or obviously old roots as well as any loose soil.

4. Hold the plant upside down to see if the new root system has developed completely to the end of the severed stem. If any unrooted portion remains, trim it to where the root system begins.

5. While the plant is still inverted apply the fermate-sulphur-talc mixture to the raw cut. Since it will not be feasible to have a drying period at this point, apply a heavier layer to insure that the plant sap will not exude from the fresh cut. As in humans, a plant suffers shock from fluid loss.

6. Working with the plant upright, loosely tuck any dangling roots in toward the severed stem. Set the plant on the prepared cheese cloth and gently bring the material up to encase the root system. You are forming a root ball. Temporarily tie the cheese cloth at the top — it will make the plant easier to handle. (Figure 7). After a week or so of contact with



Figure No. 7

the damp soil, the cheese cloth will rot and what remains above surface may be removed in time — do not be in a hurry to do this, it will harm nothing to allow it to stay for a few weeks.

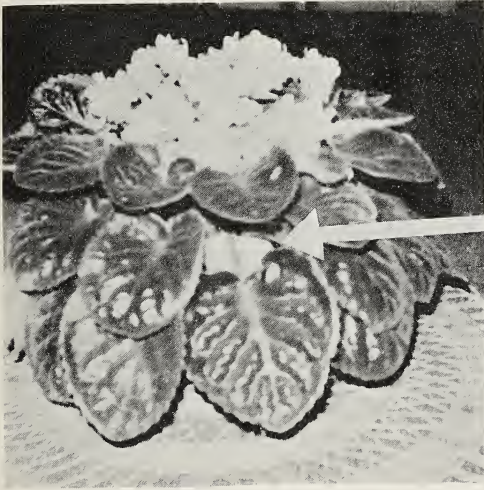
Step C. Replanting.

1. Place the root-balled plant into the newly prepared pot that best fits its needs. (Step B, 1.) Use lightly premoistened soil in repotting, and do not water heavily at this point. The new roots must not be deprived of oxygen.

2. Remove the temporary tie that is restraining the cheese cloth.

3. If leaves are removed at the top of the neck (Step A, 2.) pull the cheese cloth back from the main stem about a finger's width and fill this area with dampened soilless mix.

4. Replace the leaf support and set the plant in a subdued light for approximately a week or ten days. **Keep moist but not wet.** A protective cover of clear plastic helps in establishing the plant in its new environment. Most plants will not experience any shock if care is taken; but should it occur, keep the plant under plastic longer in indirect light and "ride-it-out."



No. 2—"Blue Falcon" ready to be replanted in new pot. Note arrow pointing to where leaves have been pulled aside to show styrofoam neck-collar. Foliage and blossoms both in fine condition.

As with all new methods or ideas — be cautious! Do not subject a number of fine plants to a radical procedure such as this the first time you try it. Your



No. 3—"Hondo" was the first plant on which this method was tried. It has been maintained in fine condition through the entire experimental period. The show-quality of its beauty was proven by this picture which was taken at the First Austin AVS April 1977 spring show.

technique may need refining or your environment may demand method modification. Also, no method is fool-proof, losses can occur. I suggest that a few good leaves from the plant be saved as a precaution. I might add at this point that although I have tried it, this method is not feasible for miniature or semiminature plants.

Personally, I have never lost a plant with this procedure, but then maybe I have just been lucky. I have plants in my collection that have been subjected to this treatment on a yearly basis during the entire period I have been working on this project. They are strong, healthy, beautiful plants that I am very proud to show from year to year. (See Picture Nos. 2, 3 and 4)



No. 4—"Fanfare." This is the same plant as shown in Picture No. 1. This picture was taken four months later.

I wish you success in the transformation of that lovely specimen back into the beauty that you knew it could be.

High Temperatures

Very high temperatures will cause leaves to become tight and compact so that center leaves cannot grow through. Bloom stalks will be short as will the petioles. Leaves will hug the pot. Frequent spraying with warm water will help a little bit but the only thing to do is wait for cooler weather. Keep the plants moderately moist meanwhile.

LONG PETIOLES

Long petioles (leaf stems) may be an indication that the plant is not receiving sufficient light. Move the plant to a window with stronger light or move it closer to the fluorescent tubes.



Musings from the "Mini-Mam"

Mrs. Sidney (Ellie) Bogin
Chairman Miniature and Semimini Class
39 Boyd Street
Long Beach, NY 11561

We took a vacation in August and since it was much too warm to cover plants with plastic, I decided to put the capillary matting on all the trays and hope that would be the answer. The 'other gesneriads' had done very well on them for over three weeks.

It was one of the best decisions I've ever made in regard to growing. The plants were watered thoroughly from the top and just enough water added to the mats to have them evenly wet. The lights were left on the same 12 hours and I did not remove any blossoms. We came back nine days later to find the plants in excellent condition, budded up and blooming heavily.

Now, a few months later, I am completely sold on this method of watering. However, it does have a few drawbacks. The plants do so well and grow so rapidly, that before you know it, leaves of adjoining plants are overlapping each other.

Findings: You cannot crowd the plants.

Minis and semis have more of a tendency to sucker.

Findings: Minis and semis sucker from extremes of dryness or wetness. Wicking presents the same problem. All the time you save in watering will be expended in removing suckers. Just look at the bright side and think of all the suckers you can obtain new plants from so readily.

Findings: Plants bloom heavier. Plants that were scarce bloomers like 'Cinderella' and 'Calico Kitten' are full of bloom. Variegation is intensified and all the beautiful pinks and creams show up.

It is very easy to flood the tray and have the plants develop root rot from standing in water.

Findings: After initial wetting, add water cautiously, just till the mat is moist. Even the little ones take about a week to need water. Try and keep pots of the same size together so that they need water at the same time. Feeding can be with the same $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon to a gallon of water.

At this writing, the heat has not been put on in the house. Once it is on the plants may need water in the middle of the week.

January is again time to evaluate your miniatures and semiminiatures, in view of picking your best bloomers and those that shape well for the spring shows. Give those you select special attention. Con-

sistency in care is what pays off with an award winning plant. Take off all suckers, marred or discolored leaves and make sure the leaves are spaced evenly around the plant. A plastic pick will help train any that are slightly out of place.

If you end up with a necky plant, scrape the stem and let it dry for 15 or 20 minutes. Make sure you take off a corresponding amount of root. Don't be afraid to take a sharp sterilized knife and just lop off $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ of the roots.

Loosen up the old soil, take a clean sterilized pot, fresh sterilized soil and centering your plant carefully, drop it into the pot. Fill in lightly all around making sure to keep soil off the leaves. Tap the pot on a table to settle the soil and eliminate air spaces. Brush the leaves with a soft brush and then water well. It is better to repot just before the plant needs watering as the leaves won't be as turgid and easy to snap.

Check weekly for suckers and turned leaves. If you give them the proper care for the next few months, you will avoid last minute repotting and you won't end up with gaps in the symmetry.

The 1975 Miniature and Seminiature Culture and Variety list is available from me at the cost of \$2.00. PLEASE MAKE CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS OUT TO AVSA. The 1976 supplement will be included. If you already have the list and just want the supplement, send a large self-addressed stamped envelope. PLEASE DO NOT STAPLE CHECKS TO THE LETTER.

Best wishes for a happy year of violeteering.

FERTILIZER SALTS

Plants that are wick watered may develop a buildup of fertilizer salts on the rim of the pot or on the surface of the soil. If so, occasionally wipe the pot rim with a damp cloth. If necessary remove the top layer of soil and replace it with fresh soil.

SPRINGTAILS?

A successful and safe insecticide for springtails is Optox. Dilute 20 drops in one pint of warm water and water plants with this mixture. Once should do it but if not, repeat in three or four days. At first sign after that, give another dose.

AVSA AFFILIATES

*Mrs. Wayne (Mildred) Schroeder
Affiliate Chairman
1739 N 74th Court
Elmwood Park, IL 60635*



WELCOME NEW AFFILIATES!!

Master City AVS, Joyce Moseley, 2461 Damascus Rd., Apt. 5E, Augusta, GA 30904.

Happy Times AVS, Mrs. Edward Boggs, 205 Parmenter, Columbus, KA 66725.

ABC's of African Violets, Mrs. B. H. MacDonald, 1604 16th St., Brownwood, TX 76801.

Twin Cities AVS, Mr. Jim B. Lathem, 717 Kathleen Dr., Normal, IL 61761.

First AVS of St. Bernard, Ms Carol Molero, 2980 Corinne Ave., Charmette, LA 70043.

Sunset Violet Club of New Orleans, Norris and Lee Alexander, 1527 Maura Pl., New Orleans, LA 70114

AV Hobbyists of Sacramento, Ms Minnie T. Mobley, 3340 M St., Sacramento, CA 95816.

Brown Thumb AVS, Ms Lynn Van Beckum, Rt. 4, Red Pine Ct., Green Bay, WI 54303.

Early Morn AVS, Mrs. B. Salzer, 12 Annetta Ave., Ashburton 3147 Victoria, Australia.

Barrington Bloomers, Mrs. Francis Jarnowski, Rt. 2, Box 182, Barrington, IL 60010.

Ft. Bend AVC, Mrs. Paula Cernoch, Rt. 1, Box 58C, Needville, TX 77461.

Desert Night AVS, Mr. James M. Loya, 2400 N Dustin, Apt. 203, Farmington, NM 87401

Bonneville AVS, Mr. Monte Pearce, 877 E 300 N, Layton, UT 84041.

AVS of San Marcos, Mrs. A. J. Folts, 10 Tanglewood Dr., San Marcos, TX 78666.

Reinstated

Daytide AVC, Ms Vicky Hessel, 13400 W Forest Dr., New Berlin, WI 53151.

"Happiness Is"—helping new clubs from all over the United States and foreign countries become active, working affiliates of AVSA. Each week brings new requests for information on "How to" organize a new club, and "how to" affiliate that club with AVSA. Congratulations to all our new members and keep those letters for information coming!

Standard Show Awards

The following affiliates have completed shows and

have won the green rosette for outstanding achievement:

AVS of San Francisco, Show Chairman, Ms Sally Smith, Theme "Violet Carousel."

Orange County AVS, Ms Arlene Dossey, Theme "Violets in the Land of Oz."

Naugatonic AVC, Ms Eleanor Gorgens, Theme "Violets Down Memory Lane."

Suburban AV Friends, Ms Judy Mitchell, Theme "Violet Fiesta."

Clifton AVS, Ms Beatrice Alstein, Theme "Carnival of Violets."

Long Island AVS, Ms Marilyn Hennecken, Theme "Violets and the Arts."

We are pleased to announce that the Columbus (OH) African Violet Society is now the proud recipient of the blue rosette given by AVSA for a 1976 standard show which scored 95 or more points. Through error this club was not included in the list of winners at the convention in St. Louis. Display the award proudly!

In early January your club will receive a new form from the Knoxville office which we believe will aid us in recording more efficiently your payment of dues and your listing of officers. We need all of the information requested on this form, so please Madam President or Mister President—use this form and fill it out completely.

The November magazine contained a list of all affiliated chapters whose dues had been paid by July 1. Since that date a sizeable number of clubs have sent in dues which were obviously late. I am sorry that they could not be included in the original list. At your January meeting please instruct the treasurer to send in your yearly dues and we will assure you that your club's name will appear on the list of affiliates in the November 1978 Magazine.

Did your club receive the blue rosette card indicating that your show had scored 95 or more points? If you did you will receive a letter notifying you to prepare to receive this award in person at the Austin AVSA convention. This award will be presented to clubs for their shows in 1977. If you cannot send a delegate to accept this award, it will be mailed to you.

See you all in Austin!

TEXAS POTS

Dr. Alvin W. Shultz
Suite 212, 4121 W 83rd
Prairie Village, KA 66208

About six months ago while visiting in the home of Don Palmer in Kansas City, I was exposed to the so-called "Texas Pots," a rather unique and different way to grow violets. I became fascinated with the idea of keeping pots in a continuous supply of water, a concept contrary to everything I have read about watering African violets, since the primary cause of root rot is over-watering.

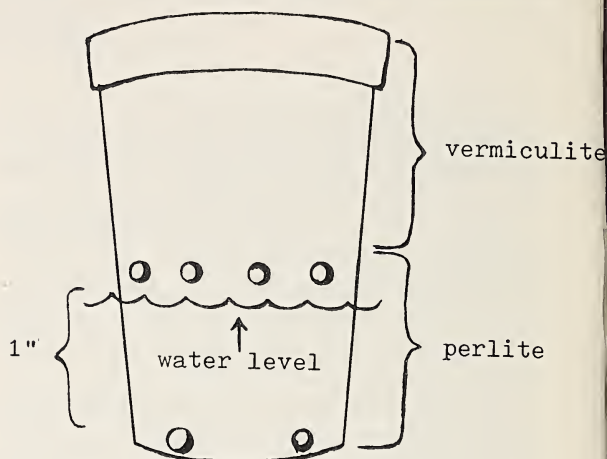
So I decided to set up some trays and experiment. I tried rooted leaves and small plantlets as they were separated from the leaves. The results were fantastic. The rooted leaves seemed to produce plantlets sooner and the plantlets grew much faster and produced blooms sooner. Unfortunately, I did not keep any notes, but hope to do so in the future.

In the midst of my work, I took a four-week vacation, leaving the violet care to my daughter who followed instructions as to the water level. Upon my return, everything was growing leaps and bounds. Out of about 40 leaves, only two did not make it. There was not one case of root rot or deterioration of any of the plantlets.

For those who have not experimented with

these "Texas Pots" and would like to try them, I will describe my method.

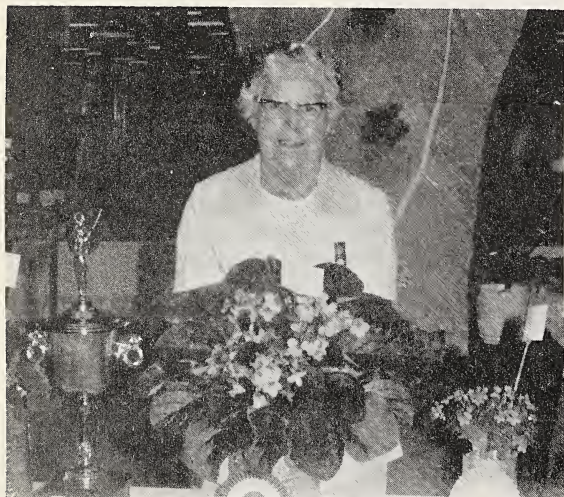
Using a six-ounce styrafoam cup and either an ice pick or electric soldering iron (a hot ice pick makes holes much easier than a cold one), holes are made in the cup. Four holes, equidistant



around the bottom side, are made. About one inch above these holes a row of holes is made around the cup about one-fourth inch apart. Perlite is then added till it covers the top row of holes. The rest of the cup is filled with vermiculite. The cup is soaked in water and the plant is then placed in the cup. The cups then are placed in a tray with the water level just below the top row of holes. The water is fertilized with one-fourth teaspoon of Peters to the gallon.

I am going to continue the experiment and see if I have hit upon something good or find out later that my idea was not so good after all.

I would like to hear from others who have experimented with these "Texas Pots" and compare notes.



BEST IN SHOW—Mrs. Andrew Suder is shown holding "Colorado Knight", named Best in Show at the 18th annual show held by the Upper Pinellas AVS in Largo, FL. Show theme was "Violets—Nature's Gift."



AN ODDITY—Here's an oddity of nature! Notice the two blooms coming out of the middle of the blossom of "Blue Fashionaire." Mrs. L. F. Lidiak of Austin admits she's never seen one of her plants perform like this before. (Photo by Leary)

SEND YOUR CHOICES

How often have you asked which violets perform the very best? For answers to this question, check the Best Varieties List, compiled from lists of favorites from members of affiliate clubs and from commercial members.

Now is the time to send your 1978 choices of best performing violets, they must be in by April 1st. Please don't put AVSA to the expense of asking for a list by letter.

Please check the spelling of the names of varieties, including the hybridizer. We have many violets with similar names: Lilac Time (Behnke), Parker's Lilac Time and Granger's Lilactime. Carefree (Arndt), Granger's Carefree, and Vern's Carefree. Plan an interesting program on Best Varieties.

An individual is limited to 25 choices. If one grows just a few violets then your list will be short. A club is not limited in any way. Every member should submit a list. Please **do not** send a list of 25 for an entire affiliate membership.

We are always delighted to receive lists in alphabetical order or compiled club lists in alphabetical order. Just be sure that all the choices of every member are included in the compiled list.

Many new varieties are not in the Master Variety List. If you are growing a violet not on the Master List, please send the name, description of the plant and the name of the hybridizer to plant registration chairman, Adele Tretter.

Be sure the list you send bears your name and address; should the list be choices of a club, please be sure to state how many members voted, and how many votes each variety received. Please include the name of the club.

Who should send a list? Each and every AVSA member, each and every affiliate club member, and each commercial member.

Send your lists before April 1, 1978 to:

Mrs. Leon Fiedler

Route 1

Prescott, WI 54021

Want To Join Club?

Do you want to join an African Violet Club in the Quad City area of Iowa? Persons living in Davenport and Bettendorf, Iowa, and Rock Island and Moline, Illinois, who are interested in organizing a club in that area are asked to contact Marlene Engebretson, telephone 319-355-6200 or Sally Stocker, 309-526-8066. Ms. Stocker lives at 1935 Winding Hill #701, Davenport, IA.

MY FAVORITE 25 AFRICAN VIOLETS

VARIETY

HYBRIDIZER

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
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23. _____
24. _____
25. _____

Signed _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Mail to: Mrs. Leon Fiedler
Chairman Best Variety and
Honor Roll Compiler
Rt. 1, Prescott, WI 54021

Species Collection Seen at Convention

The Educational Committee for the 31st annual AVSA Convention/Show endeavored to present the most complete collection of *Saintpaulia* species ever assembled at a convention/show. The committee consisted of Mary Mathew Mahen, Virginia Fisler Meyer, Lois Newton Russell, co-chairman, and Edd Stretch Smith, chairman.

All *G. Saintpaulia* species in the world; of the genus *Gesneriaceae*, came from a single area on the continent of Africa not quite as large as the square mileage of Missouri. Located in the Eastern South Central Tanganyika (Usambara Mountains) region, they have been known for a relatively short time. The first two, found at the end of the nineteenth century in 1891 and 1892, started it all.

From this late beginning the *G. Saintpaulia* has developed in the 20th Century as the most widely grown blooming houseplant in the world; and the African Violet Society of America, Inc., is the largest plant society in the world devoted to the culture and interests of a single blooming species! As we move into the 21st century for our "Third Time Around," it is believed that we can more easily develop our future if we better understand our past, — and so we presented the species!

Here they are:

1. *S. amaniensis*

Near Amani, in the Usambara Mountains foothills, the *S. amaniensis* was found growing with ample moisture, shade and coolness. It is a creeper with violet-blue flowers, two to five per cluster and medium green ovate leaves which readily root upon contact with the soil. It grows as a multiple-crowned plant and some taxonomists feel it is not a separate species, but rather a differing form of *S. magungensis*.

2. *S. brevipilosa*

Growing as a small, single-crowned plant with tightly bunched leaves, this one usually hides its flowers with its rounded leaves which are thin and light green. Abundantly borne, the soft purple flowers, dark-centered, are not long lived. Moderate light, temperatures and moisture are to its liking.

3. *S. confusa*

Quite ample moisture and very good drainage are a must! An 1895 discovery, taken from the gneiss rock formation near Mount Mlinga some fifteen miles from Mount Tongwe, *S. confusa* is one of the two original species grown in Germany by Ernst Benary. Deep purple flowers are produced infrequently in abundance. It may

be grown small, but is much more impressive as a large, multiple-crowned plant. Appreciable results are evident with one thousand to twelve hundred foot-candle light exposure.

4. *S. difficilis*

Chartreuse leaves on long, bent petioles make this 1939 discovery a distinctive one. Medium blue flowers appear profusely on an upright, single crown, its habitat was more wide spread than many of the species since it was known in an area between Kenya and Tanganyika in three different and distinct areas.

5. *S. diplotricha* Number 6

6. *S. diplotricha* Number 7

7. *S. diplotricha* Number 0

The differences between these three are so technical and trivial, they are best left to the taxonomists, i.e., the length or angle of a hair, etc.

Coming from various altitudes in the Usambara Mountains, it is a small roseate plant; single-crowned; dark-leaved; thick fleshed and bears appealing water-colored lilac flowers. Don't overwater.

8. *S. goetzeana*

From all known records, this tiny and temperamental species, found nestled among mosses in the primeval forest of the Lukwangule plateau, has blossomed only once since its discovery seventy-seven years ago.

Success in growing *S. goetzeana* is to be commended. Forming tiny clumps of countless rosettes, it will probably produce two or three diminutive flowers of palest lilac hue — should that day ever come. *S. goetzeana* is very weak-rooted and requires temperatures ranging from as low as 40° F., 4.4° C., (nights) to 90° F. 32.2° C., (days) with fluctuating 40% to 70% humidity.

9. *S. grandifolia* Number 299

10. *S. grandifolia* Number 237

Both plants usually grow single-crowned. They become quite large as their name implies and are most handsome with their very large, crinkled, wafer-thin, elliptical, leaves growing somewhat upright on lengthy, pliable petioles. Quite floriferous for a species; the blossoms are crisp, blue-violet in color. A W. R. Punter discovery from the Usambara Mountains.

11. *S. grotei*

This most fascinating gesneriad should, perhaps, be considered a true vine since it can

attain a height or length of over three feet. (91.44 CM)! Coming from the Amani vicinity near Tanganyika, it grew in dense shade with abundant moisture and excellent drainage. Found in 1920, *S. grotei* has not been appreciated for its hybridizing potential until quite lately. Bearing its two-toned, blue-violet flowers rather few in number on flimsy peduncles, it becomes more prolific with exposure to higher than normal temperatures, (78° to 85° F., 25.5° to 29.4° C.) Long, rampant petioles are distinctively bark brown in color and terminate in flat, rounded, dentate leaves, varied in size from a slight one inch (2.54 CM) to over three inches (7.62 CM). Tiny swellings on the plant's stem are nodes which may produce air roots during periods of high humidity. Cuttings root quite well, rapidly and easily. *S. grotei* may be trained in growth pattern much the same as *Hoya, carnosa*, i.e., either upward in a trellised effect, or downward as a weeper.

12. *S. House of Amani*

A most beautiful single-crowned plant, *S. House of Amani* has so much going for it. Never having been properly identified or classified as a true species, (which does seem rather ironic in today's plant-mad world) it throws numerous trusses of medium lavender-blue, short-lived flowers, numbering five to seven per stalk. Flower drop can be noticeably reduced by feeding with an unusually high phosphate diet. Pointed, quilted, dark green, dentate to scallop leaves are enhanced by red backs and petioles. To lengthen peduncles, grow the plant about two feet (60.96 CM) from an overhead light source with fourteen to sixteen hours exposure daily.

13. *S. inconspicua*

This elusive member grew sparsely in a Uluguru Mountains forest. Not known until 1932, it was a frail trailer and bore small blue-spotted white flowers a typical of other species. It is now believed extinct since the bombing of Germany during World War II. First classed as a *Didymocarpus*, it is felt that this plant could lend much to the future of *Saintpaulia* breeding, should another ever come forth.

14. *S. intermedia*

Blue flowers, five to seven in number, are borne in modest numbers on this interesting deviate. As its name implies, it grows somewhere between a trailing plant and a roseate one. Small, round, olivegreen serrate leaves are inclined to spoon or cup in a lotus-leaf pattern.

15. *S. ionantha*

The first species to be named, it was later to be found that some of plants were really what

became *S. confusa*. These two have lent more to today's cultivars than any others.

A large grower, *S. ionantha* has dark green, glossy, quilted, serrate leaves and clusters of blue-violet flowers, numerous in count. It endures summer heat well, having evolved in torrid surroundings. Although leaves cup upward, they have a tendency to droop slightly as temperatures approach 80° F., 26.6° C.

16. *S. magungensis*

17. *S. magungensis*, var. *minima*

18. *S. magungensis*, var. *occidentalis*

The foothills of the Usambara Mountains at Magunga are now under cultivation; the only area where this species and its variants grew. Now extinct in Africa, this procumbent, branched plant continues to root as it touches soil, producing new clumps readily. Two to four medium violet-blue flowers top each peduncle, which are numerous. It is a most valuable addition to the plant breeder's collection!

19. *S. nitida*

Dark-leaved, Tanganyika-borne, *S. nitida* is a natural spreader. It remains small and its flowers, too, are dark. Ample moisture and only modest light are to its liking. Prefers coolness.

20. *S. orbicularis*

21. *S. orbicularis* var. *purpurea*

Found in 1916 at four thousand to seven thousand foot heights, in the western Usambara Mountains, this one likes cold nights and very hot days, (45° to 90° F., 7.2° to 32.2° C. range).

Growing handsomely upright as a multiple plant (or single crowned), its dark green, shiny leaves are small and nearly round. Light lilac, dark-centered flowers are in abundance much of the time.

22. *S. pendula*

23. *S. pendula*, var. *kizarae*

Many crowned and trailing, this lavender-flowered, round leaved, light green member is a thirsty and hungry beauty. It will share the spotlight with others as long as it receives an ample portion for itself. Like all temperamental stars, if its demands are not met, it refuses to perform. "Sister" *kizarae* plays the supporting role.

24. *S. pusilla*

The smallest species ever found, *S. pusilla* is now regretfully believed lost forever since the World War II Berlin bombings. The minute mauve and white flowers were true jewels, staged above tiny, purple-backed, triangular leaves. Less difficult and temperamental than *S. goetzeana*, it stood alone in diminutive greatness.

25. ***S. rupicola***

With slanting and "suckering" tendencies, this species is most suitable for "totem-pole" or "strawberry jar" culture. It is not difficult in cultivation and is medium blue flowered.

26. ***S. shumensis***

Single-crowned, and suckering freely, this small, bright green plant blooms palest blue flowers in sparse numbers. Reduce nitrogen and increase light to inhibit suckering.

27. ***S. Sigi Falls***

Along with *S. House of Amani*, not yet declared a true species, this hardy, pubescent beauty blooms freely. Thick, ovate leaves vary in size. They are handsomely veined and red-backed. Grows easily. Try it for fun.

28. ***S. teitensis***

S. teitensis grows upright and single crowned with dark green, shiny, pointed red-backed leaves and lone light blue-violet flowers. Its outer leaves tend to spoon and are brittle and thick. Medium light and moisture are to its liking.

29. ***S. tongwensis***

Reaching maturity early, *S. tongwensis* grows symmetrical, upright, rarely suckers, and easily remains single-crowned. Freely producing copious quantities of soft blue flowers, this one appears to be the strongest and most robust of all the species. It is not a demanding plant and its pleasant nature will lend encouragement while trying some other more difficult ones.

30. ***S. velutina***

As its name implies, this one is a velvety, reddish-green plant. Especially appealing for its ease of growth and flowering, the flat rosette produces large quantities of medium violet, red-centered blossoms in all but the hottest months. Grow it near the edge of the bench, if lighted, or in a northeast exposure. Don't overfeed or overwater.

Compiled by Edd Stretch Smith, Life Member, African Violet Society of America, Inc.

Some sources of information on species are:

1. **The African Violet Magazine**, published by African Violet Society of America, Inc., P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, TN 37901
2. **Helen Van Pelt Wilson's African Violet Book**, Hawthorne Books, Inc., 260 Madison Avenue, NY 10016
3. **African Violet Handbook for Judges and Exhibitors**, Ruth Carey, available through AVSA magazine.
4. **Curtis's Botanical Magazine**, London
5. **Revue 1 Horticulture Belge Etrangere**, The Continent (Europe)
6. **The Miracle Houseplants**, Virginie F. and Goerge A. Elbert, Crown Publishers, Inc., #1 Park Avenue, NY 10016



Ella Schwenkner

Violets Are Her Trademark

E. Margaret Spafford
2117 W. State St.
Janesville, WI 53545

Ella Schwenkner is an active, 78 year old African Violet Lover. Retired from her job as a pastry chef for 30 odd years, she devotes most of her time to her full time hobby and first love, African Violet Plants!

Miss Schwenkner proudly displays over 85 different varieties in various rooms of her home at 1609 Schaller, Janesville, WI. More than 400 different plants thrive under her tender, loving care. A dazzling array of her larger, blooming plants are displayed under lights in her bedroom. Several are grown in the kitchen bay-window area. One-third of the basement consists of long tables of violets, nestled under fluorescent lighting.

Ella devotes 3 or 4 days each week watering, grooming, and caring for her plants. She stresses good lighting is important for abundant bloom. Plants may be grown in windows with strong, bright light, but not direct sunlight. If good natural light is not available, fluorescent light for 12 to 14 hours a day is beneficial. Small, young plants should be placed 8 to 12 inches from the lights and larger, mature plants should be 12 to 16 inches from top of pot to bottom of the light tubes.

Question Box

By Anne Tinari, Tinari Greenhouses
2325 Valley Road, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006



To violet friends from far and near,
A New Year's wish to last all year.
The warmth of friendship, the spirit of love,
Bestowing countless blessings from above.

Q. Dear Anne: I was once a devout AVSA member but after being transferred overseas dropped out. Now back in the States I have rejoined but find myself so far behind in varieties and am overwhelmed by them. Please explain the difference in variegated foliages.

A. Regarding the variegated foliages there is an excellent article in the African Violet Magazine, Vol. 22, No. 5, page 39, Sept. 1969 entitled "Variegated Foliage" by Ethel Champion, a talk that was given at a convention workshop at a convention some years ago. She describes three types of variegated foliage.

The Lilian Jarrett type which possesses rather uniform striping and is more stable than other types as it is less affected by environment.

The second type is the occasional sport that you may have. You set a green leaf and just one plant will have variegated foliage. Most of these sports do not come true. If the variation in color is symmetrical on the leaf it will come true, if it is irregular and each leaf is different it will not. You can produce more plants from suckers only.

The third type of variegated plant (the popular cultivar 'Tommie Lou') also began as a sport but has been improved by hybridizing until the quality is excellent. It is now available in all flower colors and all leaf types. The color of the variegation may be in many shades of green from chartreuse to dark green or, if the leaf has a red reverse, it will be pink, tan or bronze.

Q. After reading the caution and contents on my plant food package, I am not sure I want to use it. Risk is not stated specifically on the label and I see no mention of risk in the articles which recommend this plant food.

A. You no doubt are referring to the caution warning "Keep Out of Reach of Children." CONTAINS NITRATES and use at your own risk. This is very often done by the manufacturer to protect them from people who use any material very carelessly. Much

time and research goes into these formulas at great cost, thus they cannot be responsible when people do not follow directions and must print caution on the label.

Most plant foods contain nitrates in various proportions, but proper dosage is given on the container and the use should be as recommended.

Q. Dear Anne: Can you tell me where I can purchase some colchicine in any form? I have written supply houses all over and none carry it, not even Stokes, so if you can tell me any place that I can get it I would be very grateful.

A. I have been told that the Sigma Chemical Co., P. O. Box 14508, St. Louis, Missouri 63178 does carry this material. I am not sure it is sold to any individual without some credentials as the material is highly toxic. It may be difficult for a lay individual to purchase it and always used at one's own risk.

Q. I have a problem of constant bud dropping. What could be causing it?

A. Usually the effects of too dry an atmosphere, gas or paint fumes, overwatering or extreme temperature changes.

Q. Having constructed a small hobby greenhouse I plan to try African violets. I am told they must have a warm greenhouse. What temperatures does this involve and what is meant by a cool greenhouse?

A. Since African violets are natives of a warm, moist climate in their original habitat of East Africa, experiences illustrate they prefer the climate of a semi-tropical plant. They thrive best in a greenhouse temperature of 55 to 70 degrees or more.

A cool greenhouse is one whose temperature is maintained at 40 to 50 degrees. Too cold to grow African violets, but quite suitable for crops like carnations, sweet peas and other cutting crops.

Q. Some of my African violet leaves grow straight up, while others grow in a flat rosette manner. All are kept in the same window behind a light curtain. What can I do with plants that don't lie flat?

A. It is quite normal for some cultivars to grow in an upright manner. Since they are all receiving the same treatment you can try to change position of

plants occasionally allowing the light to fall more directly on the center of those that grow upright.

However, plants like 'Star Gazer', 'Carnival Queen', 'Pink China', 'Pat's Pet' and the Leawala types do grow characteristically in an upright manner.

Q. I grow many gesneriads along with my violets and always debate where the best area would be for them under my many fluorescent fixtures. They seem to have very few flowers during the cold winter months.

A. Generally gesneriads with light color foliage and blossoms thrive best further from the light tubes, preferably at the end of the tubes where the light is less intense. The darker foliage gesneriads with thick leaves and dark colored blossoms do best toward the center of the tubes or in the center of a lighted area.

Since these plants are tropical many stop flowering when temperatures drop below 60 degrees but bloom best during the hot humid summer months, which is typical of the many warm areas where they originated.

Q. Dear Anne: Three months ago I put some leaves down and now a month later plantlets appeared. They are about an inch in diameter with the mother leaf attached and the plantlet is sending up buds. Isn't this very unusual?

A. This is not too unusual, I have seen it happen quite often. Some cultivars are more vigorous than others and can establish bloom stalks almost as soon as they take root. When this happens in our propagation trays we simply remove them to maintain greater strength in the plantlet that is rooting.

Q. Dear Anne: Being an invalid, I have someone else taking care and grooming my plants. Thus I do not examine them very carefully as I should. Recently have contacted cyclamen mite on some of these plants. Now I have read on several occasions it's impossible to get rid of cyclamen mite. I shudder to think of throwing out all my plants. I have separated the worst looking ones but would like to have your opinion on this matter. I have been drenching the plants to try to rid them of this malady.

A. My suggestion would be, rather than drench the plants spray them. The problem is really on the foliage. Make a solution of 1 teaspoon of Kelthane to a gallon of water and place it in a fine mist sprayer spraying the plants thoroughly, top and bottom of foliage and even in the area or pebbles they sit on. This should be repeated about every 7 days for at least three times and it has been known to work for many people in controlling mite infestation.

You are so wise to separate the badly infested ones from the rest of your collection, but it is also wise to

cautiously give your plants this treatment as a preventative about once a month.

Q. I have received my first copy of the AV magazine and enjoy it immensely. In the article regarding the propagation of African violet flower petals I would like to know the amounts on artificial culture media. I would also like to have the back articles on 'Tissue Culturing African Violets'. I have also written Professor A. C. Hildebrandt in hope of further information.

A. Tissue culturing is a very new innovation in growing African violets. There have been only two other articles in the AVSA Magazine on this subject; African Violet Magazine Vol. 30, #1 January 1977 and the second one in AVSA Vol. 30, #2 March 1977. These back issues of the magazine can be purchased from the AVSA office in Knoxville, Tenn. at a nominal cost.

Much of this tissue culturing technique is still in the laboratory stages and only the men involved can give you any details on the subject. I'm glad you have written them direct and so very glad you enjoy the magazine.

Q. Dear Anne: I am considering a new window screening material, as per enclosed sample. Now will this cut out any rays of light needed for my window-grown violets?

A. Regarding the sun control material, this may work well in the hot summer months or for south exposures to avoid the burning sun; but am afraid it would drastically restrict light that is so necessary to grow flowering plants like the African violet during the fall to spring months.

Q. Dear Anne: My favorite varieties are those that have several colors in the blossom. I prefer all the variegated type flowers. Now, should I purchase the Peters Variegated plant food to encourage more profuse blossoming, as all my plants are so slow to bloom.

A. Sorry you are misinterpreting the purpose of this excellent plant food. Peters Variegated plant food is especially for the plants with the variegated foliage (not blossoms), such as 'Tommie Lou', 'Nancy Reagan', 'Silver Crest', 'Mystic', 'Happy Harold' and the many variegated foliage types available. The analysis of 5-50-17 is especially low in nitrogen to assist this variegated foliage to grow in the best possible manner and retain its attractive white markings.

Q. I'm a new AVSA member and plan to grow commercially. So many African violets have a tendency to revert to their natural color. As a commercial grower how can I be sure that I will always be able to have violets that will remain true to the

color purchased?

A. It is very possible that many cultivars, even the well-known standard ones, can revert. One must be very selective and even then they can stump you. There is no real assurance they can always remain stable. However, many are more reliable than others, many of the white edged or two tone types can be very recessive. Temperature, light, feeding and environment can also play an important part in keeping plants stable. Only experience and continuous selection of stock can advance toward the stability in cultivars we all desire.

Q. Dear Anne: What is your opinion on trailers? Are they really worth growing? I have seen specimens that are beautiful but have also seen very unruly ones. Are they hard to grow? Should I give them a try?

A. Most of the trailing type cultivars are very easily grown; propagation is relatively fast; they are very sturdy and floriferous; they grow easily and seem almost disease resistant.

They can be grown into very handsome specimens, especially if one takes the time and trouble to groom them properly. The care and culture is similar to other African violets, thriving in the same environment. They do well in a porous soil that is well-balanced, using a diluted plant food constantly as on other violets. There are so many new and beautiful flower colors and foliage forms that they can be a real challenge to any violet enthusiast.

Q. I have been told my plants have thrips and I am treating them. However, why are my blossoms streaked and drop so quickly, almost as soon as they open?

A. Thrips can cause light streaks on the flower. These tiny insects in their swift movement in going from one part of the flower to another can also pollinate the flowers which results in a quick drop of the flower petals causing formation of seed pods on the plant.

Q. Are nematodes always found on the plant roots?

A. Yes, usually the telltale knots may be seen on the root system. However, they may also be found in the petiole where swelling occurs and can infest the leaf blade. An infested plant should be discarded.

TIP #1 . . . From a reader in Quebec, Canada:

Dear Anne: I was able to spot a mite and actually see it only when I turned a 30-power microscope on it. Then I had the strangest feeling that I should hear the noise of their chomping around, they were on the move and in full action.

TIP #2 . . .

Dear Anne: For many years I was successful in keeping springtails under control in my large violet collection with the recommended 1 tablespoon of Clorox to 1 quart of water as a drench, watering solution in around the pot edge.

In following this procedure the last application resulted in almost total disaster of so many of my plants, especially the ones in the smaller pots. After much questioning I find our water source is now highly chlorinated which no doubt added to my unhappy experience. I am assuming that the chlorine in the water and the Clorox I added made too strong a solution for such tender plants. I thought this tip might make others aware of chemicals in water.

BE HUMANE!

*Jan MacDonald
1604 Sixteenth Street
Brownwood, Texas 76801*

Do you have a favorite pet? An African violet type that is! Be it "Poodle Top;" "Snoopy;" "Top Cat" or "Calico Kitten."

Treat it right and it will repay you with extra good behavior and beautiful blooms. Now you don't have to pamper your pet or spoil it like most of us do — but just occasionally give it an extra pat on the head. Tell it how pretty it is! Maybe when no one's listening.

Check occasionally to see that your pet plant is getting enough light, either natural or artificial; 10-14 hours are normal, especially during cloudy days, but fewer if it's one of these long hot summer days. Take a peek to see if your plant is getting enough water, either a plain drink or one with a little fertilizer. Temperature is important too. So check to see that the temperature is between 65 & 75 degrees. Check to see if the plant is getting any humidity and if not, place on a tray of perlite dampened with water. Most importantly, check at least once a week to see if any pests are on your pet! They can appear overnight sometimes. Learn which pests or diseases are which and which might likely be on your plant. Spray once monthly with a good insect spray.

If you're like so many of us, you have several pets, so be sure not to overcrowd them. Leave plenty of room for air circulation and this prevents the spread of diseases, too. With these simple guidelines, anyone can grow a beautiful African Violet Pet. Then, before you know it, you'll have a whole houseful of pets for everyone to admire.

Leaf Propagation Of African Violets

*Mrs. James B. Whitaker
DoDe's Gardens
1490 Saturn Street
Merritt Island, FL 32952*

The multiplication or propagation of African violets or Saintpaulia, from leaf cuttings is a simple, interesting and economical means of increasing or beginning a collection. The leaves on the outer edges of mature plants are not satisfactory for this process as they have passed their prime in manufacturing new cells and the process of photosynthesis which is necessary to sustain their life. Thus, these leaves will be slow to produce new plants if they do so at all and the plantlets may be of inferior quality. The young healthy leaves of African violets will surprise you in the speed with which young plants appear when you provide adequate conditions. Leaves in the third row from the center of a mature plant are very good or those half way between the crown and outer leaves.

When a leaf is removed from the parent plant, care should be taken to remove all of the petiole from the stem of the plant in order to prevent possible rot.

If you should find yourself with a large, mature

African violet leaf for propagation, slice a small strip off the top of the leaf to force the growth into the plantlets and when they are up and established, the parent leaf should be removed for the young plant will have to supply it food.

With a very sharp knife or razor blade, slice the stem or petiole of the leaf on a slant $1\frac{1}{2}$ " below the base of the leaf.

A rooting medium of equal parts of coarse vermiculite and perlite (sponge rock) is the best we have found in our experimenting. This should be moistened.

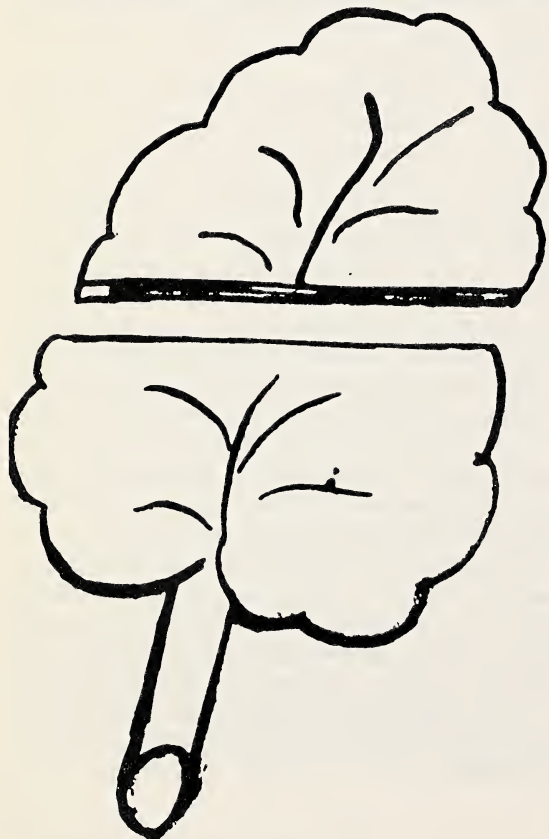
Small plastic pots or the bathroom solo cups work nicely for this process. Place $1\frac{1}{2}$ " of this



mixture into the cups in which holes have been placed with an ice pick or skewer. With a pencil or ink which will not fade or run, write the name of the leaf on the cup for positive identification. The leaf is now placed just barely into the medium. This provides quicker access to the light for the new plantlets and the leaf can be supported by the sides of the cup or pot.

Next, thoroughly cleanse a plastic box, with lid, such as a shoe or sweater box and rinse well. Place a thin layer of pebbles in the bottom and arrange the cups filled with leaves on top. A small amount of water is placed in the bottom of the box for humidity, then the lid placed on the box. The lid will have to be removed a few hours each day for fresh air and to keep it from "raining" inside your mini-greenhouse. With this method, you may not have to water the cups themselves. **DO NOT** let them stand in water.

Place the box in a lighted area, but **NOT** in the





direct sun, for this will burn the leaves.

Rooting should take place in about two weeks.

Young leaves will appear anywhere from eight to twenty-four weeks. These should not be transplanted until they have three to four leaves the size of a nickel.

When plantlets appear, you may begin with a ¼ strength African violet fertilizer, a good 20-20-20, or a high nitrogen. DO NOT over fertilize these young plants!! We recommend that with every other watering no fertilizer be used.

YOUR LIBRARY

Harvey L. Stone
51 Peach Highlands
Marblehead, MA 01945



Have you tried any of the species yet? These are the original African violets, the ancestors of our present day beauties. Growing all the species, or as many as one can obtain, is a challenge which more and more of our members are accepting. Why not watch the articles and ads in our *African Violet Magazine* and try this phase of growing?

If your winter season is as cold as forecast, this is an especially good time to think about attending the 32nd annual AVSA Convention in Austin, TX. If one plans ahead and carefully budgets, almost anyone can attend. Remember the dates are April 10 - 15, 1978. Have you made your convention and hotel reservations yet? The forms are elsewhere in this issue. Why not fill them out right now and get them in the mail? You will not only help yourself, but the Registration Committee as well.

The Program Committee is planning to show us what Texas hospitality can mean. Let's find out, shall we?

We hope to see even more yearbooks entered in competition at Austin than ever before. Don't forget AVSA offers four cash awards in the yearbook division. Send two copies of your yearbook to Mrs. Shirley R. Jeffrey, 1918 Williamsburg Row, Denton, TX 76201 as soon as it is ready but no later than March 1, 1978.

It is a pleasure to announce that Mrs. Bell, Knoxville Office Manager, has been able to obtain the services of Mrs. Joyce Lovell who is working part time as Library Assistant. She is doing a fine job in keeping the slide programs and commentaries in usable condition so that your club may enjoy them when you borrow them for one of your meetings. We need

to know how you enjoy the programs and what, if anything, seems to be amiss. Please fill out and return the comment sheets enclosed with the slides. We cannot improve our services to you without this feedback information. Your chairman is still trying to catch up on answering comment sheets where required so don't think that your constructive comments and/or criticism go unread and unheeded. Keep sending your suggestions and any high quality color slides that you believe we may be able to use.

Your Library's greatest need right now is for photographers who can turn out high quality color slides and are willing to work during the Thursday night/Friday morning session at Austin to help us add new programs to the library. We also will need a few willing helpers to assist the photographers by carefully carrying the prize plants to and from the photographer's location. Won't you please drop me a line if you are interested in helping or know of someone else who might be willing but who may be too shy to offer his service?

JUDGES' SCHOOL

The New Orleans AVS conducted a two-day judges' school with Mrs. W. M. Plaster of Shreveport, LA, in charge. Receiving their certificates were Oneta Baudean, Judi Britton, Mary Carter, Laura Jordan, Marie Knoblock, Barbara Sisk, Alice Stumpf (renewal);, Lauren Summerville, Linda Voyles and Dot Williams. This number of judges represents one-third of the club's membership. Already holding judges' certificates were Penny Brenner and Shirley Goslee.

DEMONS IN YOUR AV COLLECTION

Dr. Horace Nelson
106 Glenwood Avenue
Troy, AL 36081

Why not a "Test Program" for your club? See how much the club members know about African violet pests and diseases and other troubles.

Here's one that might be of interest. Score four points for each correct answer. Rate players as follows:

- 90-100 — A real demon expert
- 80-90 — A growing demon expert
- 70-80 — You need to study a little more
- 60-70 — You have a long way to go!

Here are the test questions:

Indicate T (True) or F (False) in the blank provided:

1. The best action for a heavy infestation of nematodes is to throw the plant away. _____

2. Cyclamen mites cause African Violets to have swollen roots. _____

3. One of the best treatments for mealy bugs is to completely immerse your plant in warm, soapy water. _____

4. Nematodes are soft, cottony white insects which attack the plant. _____

5. The way the leaves curl on an infested plant can be a clue as to the type of mite you may have. _____

6. When a previously healthy plant droops over the edge of your pot, you possibly have thrips. _____

7. Springtails are probably harmless to violets. _____

8. Brittle leaves in the center of your plant are a sure sign of mites. _____

9. Symptoms of thrips include whitish spots on leaves and blotches and dead areas along the edges. _____

10. Soil mealy bugs are generally easier to get rid of than regular mealy bugs. _____

11. Underwatering is usually the cause of root rot. _____

12. Mites are best controlled by rubbing them off with an alcohol dipped cotton swab. _____

13. If a healthy plant suddenly starts wilting, you probably have crown rot. _____

14. Cyclamen mites probably are the most serious pests of geonierads. _____

15. Mites generally attack the outer leaves of a plant first. _____

16. A drench of Cygon 2E is one of the best treatments for soil mealy bugs. _____

17. When you discover silky cobwebs stretching from leaf to leaf you probably have cyclamen mites. _____

18. There is no known remedy for stunt disease in violets. _____

19. Springtails are small, soft bodied insects usually black or green that suck out vital plant juices. _____

20. Ring spot is caused by watering with too cold water. _____

21. Keltane is a very good preventative spray for nematodes. _____

22. An insect strip (such as a Shell Insect Strip) is not very effective in curbing African Violet pests. _____

23. Plants grown too close to a light source can have some of the same symptoms as for mites. _____

24. Petiole rot is caused by fertilizer salts on the side of the pot. _____

25. Generally it is easy to determine what is "ailing" a "sick" violet. _____

(answers on Page 59)



RECEIVES AWARD—Mrs. George Ross (left), president, presents the Cora Plymale Memorial silver bowl to Mrs. R. R. Grundy, for Queen of Show, 'Mary D', at the Richmond (VA) AVS show, "Violets From the Mountains to the Sea". Mrs. Grundy was also winner of the AVSA Best Collection (Gold Rosette), 'Mary D', 'Green Ice', 'Double Black Cherry'; 2nd best miniature, 'Baby Pink', unusual container, 'R. Claudia', silver bowl and sweepstakes for most blue ribbons; best artistic planting. Other winners were: 2nd Best AVSA Collection (Purple Rosette), 'Lullaby', 'B. Marta', 'Vern's Delight'; best arrangement, Mrs. John W. Myers; sweepstakes in design, Mrs. C. Ray Doggett; Non-member category pink rosette, Diane Vermil-ya.



Frankie

Mini Minix

Miniature by
Annalee Violetry



BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND

Mrs. L. F. Lidiak
4503 Sinclair
Austin, TX 78756

What you read in January I am writing in September, which makes for quite a time-lag. If you have not already done so I hope you will take the time to study two items in the September, 1977 *AV Magazine*. First, the Research Committee Annual Report (page 4) given by Frank Tinari in St. Louis, MO; and second, the article "Adaptation of Microculture Technology to Saintpaulia Improvement, Production," by Dr. Brent H. McCown and Peter C. Bilkey (pages 5-6).

In the McCown-Bilkey article, a point that struck me with particular impact is the statement that: "... Vegetative propagation has always been accompanied by the probability of disease, particularly as regards viruses, contaminating the plant material being carried along in the propagation process . . ."

The old adage "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" may come out of disuse, and become the key with which to unlock the door to healthier African violets.

With pesticides, fungicides, etc. under very strict control because of environmental considerations, a new approach to pest/disease control must be found. Isn't it a nice feeling to know that through the BERF sponsorship of the microculture technology project, that at least we have our "finger in the pie"?

Contributions made from July 27, 1977, to September 27, 1977.

Santa Monica Bay (CA) Chapter of AVS in memory of Dorothy Powell.....	\$ 5.00
Los Angeles (CA) AVS in memory of Mrs. Georgia Hughes.....	5.00
Suburban African Violet Friends (CA) in memory of Victor Constantinov.....	10.00
The Metropolitan AVS, Washington, D.C. in memory of Dr. Thomas B. McKneely.....	10.00
Santa Clara Valley (CA) AVC in memory of Ethel Stender.....	10.00
Mrs. E. R. Davis in memory of Sara Howard	10.00
Lincoln (NE) AVS.....	100.00
Santa Clara Valley (CA) AVC in memory of Victor Constantinov.....	5.00
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Mrs. Edw. A. Nelson in memory of Mrs. Mary S. Garrity.....	5.00
Orange County (CA) AVS.....	5.00
Mrs. L. F. Lidiak in memory of Mrs. Mary S. Garrity.....	5.00
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Mrs. J.A.W. Richardson in memory of Mrs. Mary S. Garrity.....	10.00
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'Viva La Violet' Club (IL).....	10.00
Margaret Scott AVS, Champaign-Urbana, IL	10.00
Edith V. Peterson in memory of Mrs. Mary S. Garrity.....	10.00

AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Mrs. Lucile Plaster, Chairman
8304 Suffolk Drive
Shreveport, LA 71106

Those of you who attended the St. Louis AVSA Convention heard the discussion on the merits of the BOOSTER FUND. Those who were not there were privileged to read it in the June 1977 AVSA Magazine. The fund is rather new in years but you are becoming better acquainted with it and its purpose all along. You have enjoyed some of the things to which it has contributed, such as classification of miniature and semiminature violets, additional color pages, a larger magazine, culture folders, the cumulative index, the president's guide book, Master Variety List—there is no end to it and there is much more waiting to be included when our finances permit. It is very noticeable how this fund is growing as you become more at ease with it through better understanding.

Won't you please send your contribution to the BOOSTER FUND!
CONTRIBUTIONS FROM AUG. 1 TO SEPT. 1, 1977

Estelle G. Crane, Sharon, MA in memory of Dr. Thomas B. McKneely.....	\$ 15.00
Top Choice AVS, Shreveport, LA.....	10.00

Lincoln AVS, Lincoln, NE.....	50.00
The Pied Pipers, St. Louis, MO.....	5.00
Estelle G. Crane, Sharon, MA in memory of Mrs. Mary Garrity.....	15.00
Orange County AVS, Fullerton, CA.....	5.00

Violet Named For Gov. Pryor



Gov. David Pryor of Arkansas is shown here after being presented with an African violet, "Governor Pryor", by Charlyne Reed of Gov. Pryor's hometown, Camden, Ark. In the picture are, L-R, Ralph Chas. Jones of Lake Village, AR, the Reeds' grandson, Charlyne Reed, Gov. Pryor and Ralph Reed.

Mrs. Reed of the House of Violets, Camden, AR has been hybridizing African violets for several years. For more than a year now she has been working with a seedling which she named "Governor Pryor" in honor of David Pryor, Governor of Arkansas and a native of Camden.

The seedling was shown as a new introduction at the AVSA Convention/Show held in St. Louis last April. The beautifully symmetrical plant with dark blue double blossoms was awarded a blue ribbon in the Commercial Display Division.

New Life Member

AVSA President Melva Nelson has just welcomed into life membership Vincent M. Ozimek, 21 Norwood Avenue, Albany, NY 12208. The Life Membership Roll continues to grow!

BEGINNER'S COLUMN



Mrs. J.A.W. (Ann) Richardson
RR #1, Box 70
Tavares, FL 32778

YOU KNOW YOUR LEAVES?

Do names such as longifolia, variegated, supreme confuse you? They are just names of different kinds of leaves on our African violets. Such as:

Boy—tailored, shaped like an egg but more pointed.

Girl—scolloped with a whitish spot on leaf base.

Longifolia—just what it says "long foliage".

Supreme, Amazon—heavy, hairy, large and brittle.

Spoon—sides curl upward like a spoon.

Variegated—more than one color mixed together.

Holly—such as a holly leaf.

Quilted—good description, look at your quilt.

Curly—uneven edges giving a lacy look.

Fringed or Ruffles—an uneven edge like a light fringe or a heavy ruffle.

Ovate—shaped like an egg.

Cordate—heartshaped.

Crenate—margin cut into rounded scallops.

Is This Your Article?

Did you write "An Experiment in Powders for Cut Leaves?"

If you did, please write the Editor, Grace Foote, and let her know your address. She's waiting to print the article but needs the author's name. The article was unsigned . . . and it's a good article!!

ENOUGH LIGHT?

A simple way to determine whether your plants are getting enough light is to spread your fingers about 6 inches above the plants on a sunny day around noon. If your fingers cast a shadow on the plants, there is sufficient light.



**Delightful
Colors
by
Ron Nadeau**

(Photos by Grower)

**Sergeant
Pepper**

Red-N-White





Mizzou Lou

Afternoon Delight



DO I REALLY NEED THIS?

(Birth of an Affiliate)

Sandra M. Lex
70 Enfield Avenue,
Toronto, Ontario
M8W IT9

Often, this is a question I ask myself, especially when the going gets rough and I question my sanity. A year ago, this question kept recurring.

Toronto and area had two African Violet societies and the thought of starting another Society seemed unlikely; however, I then asked myself, WHY NOT?

I had never started a society before nor had I ever been associated with an organization where it had started from the ground floor. A million questions raced through my mind but uppermost was "do I have the time to devote to this venture?" I wasn't about to start something and then not follow through. Rather than bore you with details, I'll just say that I am busy with a capital B so you see this was something I had to be sure about.

A skeleton was forming and it was time to try this idea on a few people, one being my Mother. She gave me 1000% assurance it could work plus her support so I then proceeded further to one of my close friends. She was all for it and the beginnings of the Oakville African Violet Society were borne in August of 1976.

I would like to say here we were operating on a lotta' nerve and nothing else. Our first consideration was where do we want to start a new organization where it will do the most good? Toronto is a large metropolis with numbers approaching 3 million people. We leaned outside of Toronto in the city of Oakville which is a 20 minute drive from the outskirts of the city. Why? West of Toronto has no African Violet societies for a radius of 100 miles or more. My business contacts led me to believe the people were there and it was simply a matter of just getting them together once we started publicizing. We had the location picked out, now we had to find a place to meet.

I was prepared to put money out of my own pocket but nothing to rival the national debt. With my friend being from Oakville, we settled down to picking out various places, ie: churches, halls, anything which would permit us to congregate without meeting in someone's home. We had to have a place that was within reach of public transportation central for everyone.

Oakville happens to be an affluent area but little did we realize how much until we started doing our spade work. Rental for one night was anywhere from \$35.00 to \$100.00. Shock set in. We did not want to delay our starting anymore than could be helped as traditionally September is the beginning of society meetings and winter would be setting in soon. We had to get to the people before the cold weather as many people just stay home rather than venturing out in our frigid weather. In desperation, both of us came up with the same idea. Let's try the parks department and see if any of the schools are available to us at a minimal charge. We were prepared to do the janitorial work just to get a place. Someone was looking out for us as we not only had the greatest of co-operation from the parks department in getting a place complete with kitchen but for FREE. Our only obligation was to leave the room in the condition we found it. Gladly.

People were needed now. We proceeded to draw up and mail a letter giving all the details of time, place, date, etc., to prospective members. I had people from my mailing list and we approached another African Violet grower who was very generous in adding names for us to contact. I contacted one of the well known horticulture broadcasters in Toronto who gave us great publicity for our start. Announcements were put in social columns of the local papers and the large Toronto dailies. I would have to say here that our greatest fear was that meeting night would arrive and there would only be three of us there. Failure. Looking at the optimistic side of this, we continued to lay our plans for the first night.

I felt we had to offer people something right from the very beginning and be positive in our approach. Our objectives had to be stated, programs mapped out from the very beginning, ideas presented so that people would come back. This was of prime importance.

The majority of the people who would be coming to our meetings would be novice growers and a small portion advanced. Our programs for the first year I felt must deal with the basics ie: proper watering, space, fertilizing, light, potting, spraying, temperature, humidity, soil, cleaning.

The foundation had to be built on rock not sand. Familiarizing people with the National Societies, ie: African Violet Society of America, African Violet Society of Canada, were musts and one of our goals is to have 100 membership in both.

A display of plants was also essential as many of these people would not be aware that African violets came in variegates, trailers, minis or semi-miniatures. The Kissin' Cousins were not to be left out since the trend around our way would indicate these are the coming "in" thing.

Refreshments of some order had to be made available for this night so we looked after this aspect. If we got 15 people the first evening, I was going to consider it a success but then we could end up with far less than that. We prepared for 20.

A raffle of plants was planned as we needed something to get people involved. A guest book was purchased to record our historic beginning. Name tags were purchased so we could identify everyone. Talk about optimistic!!!

October 20 came far faster than we cared but with close co-operation from the three of us, we managed to load everything up and get there before our scheduled commencement time. I'm not quite sure how I managed this, but every meeting brings the appearance of moving day with plants sitting on seats, boxes piled one on top of another, supplies under foot. Sound familiar?

The room was available, signs posted with directions, all was in readiness. Where's the people? No one seemed to want to arrive on time but between 7:30 and 8:00 p.m. we had assembled 12 people. Not bad but could have been better. I introduced the three of us and proceeded to let everyone know how delighted we were to have them join us. Normally, many people get a little disgruntled when people come in during a session but I could not have been more relieved. By 8:30, our numbers had grown to 17. Everyone was getting lost even though we had provided a map for directions.

The name of our Society was agreed upon and our plans for the following year seemed agreeable to everyone. Ideas were asked for in what they would like in our Society and after all discussion was over, the clincher was, "When do we have our first show?" Well, needless to say, I nearly keeled over. I was prepared for just about anything but not this as most people are reluctant to show at all. At this time, I felt that everyone should be made very aware that this was their Society and were going to be asked to do something in making it a success.

I marvelled at what appeared to be a roaring success for our first evening. Everyone just pitched in and helped, they talked to one another

and laughter seemed to predominate. Someone even volunteered to look after refreshments for our next meeting. We were going to make it, I just knew it.

Continuity is a must in a Society so I immediately set out to produce our first newsletter which I feel is one of our finest methods of communication. We continued sending out the newsletter to everyone on our mailing list for 6 months in the hopes of attracting more at our meetings. The end of April '77 saw our membership list grow to 35 people. Word of mouth, free publicity in local papers and broadcasters I'm sure helped in getting us where we were. The news got around that we were having fun, learning about African violets and their cousins and getting INVOLVED. Age is no barrier in our Society. The husbands are even coming and joining to find out more about their wife's violet fever.

Our end of the year meeting in June was a banquet where we just relaxed, had a good time and judging of plants which had been potted up the previous November at one of our workshops. Project plants were given out to be grown for our first show. The Oakville African Violet Society had arrived.

Our objectives for the following year are an AVSA judging school which we are sponsoring, educational programs and visits to old people's homes, and our first show for '78. Two days no less.

I come full circle to my original question. Do I really need this? It is not a question of needing but of wanting to do it. There is no physical reward to starting an Affiliate but there is that inner feeling that you just might be doing something to benefit someone else. I must say it is gratifying to see beginners get hooked as badly as me and not afraid of trying something new.

Be prepared to give of yourself and just not meeting night. Preparation of meetings, programs are only just a few of the prerequisites for a successful society. It could involve going out to someone's home to try and correct a problem they seem to be having. It could mean spending some of your own money until funds are available for your being reimbursed or giving people plants to get them started. Supporting leaf exchanges just to be sure there is enough to go around for everyone and to be sure no one is left out. Always be prepared for newcomers to your meetings.

WHY DON'T YOU START AN AFFILIATE?

PROPER-SIZED POT

A proper sized pot should be one-third the diameter of the plant.



Radiance (Granger)

Grown by
Helen Doster
Bettsville, Ohio

Thistle Patch

by Champion's



Pamper Your Violets In A Strawberry Jar

Carl H. Clawson, Jr.
14405 Bauer Drive
Rockville, Maryland 20853

In the (all too few) African violet shows I have attended, I have never seen a planting of African violets in a strawberry jar exhibited, nor have I noticed any discussion of such a planting in the African Violet Magazine in the last couple of years*. A jar of nine or ten robust plants in full bloom is enough to "turn-on" all except the most extreme of "purists" among African violet lovers, and is easy enough to prepare and grow — reason enough to prepare a strawberry jar planting for your own entertainment. While a jar planting is certainly not allowed in general competition classes in shows, it might be considered in some of the special classes. There are several advantages (and a few disadvantages) to strawberry jar plantings which should be considered. Among the advantages are:

- * nine or ten violets may be grown in little more than the shelf space required for one large violet,
- * the transpiration of moisture through the jar, and the evaporation of water from the base saucer provides some extra humidity around the plants despite a dry atmosphere — and they love it!
- * caring for the violets in the jar requires about the same time as one violet, i.e., one hefty shot of water every day or two.

Perhaps the major disadvantages of a jar planting are:

- * they will not flourish under artificial lighting conditions as well as a specimen planting (more lighting from the sides is needed),
- * it is more difficult to transport them to a show.

For the uninitiated, strawberry jars are a variation on the large basic flower pot, with multiple openings equally spaced in the sides of the pot and a large opening at the top. On smaller pots the openings may all be on the same level but on taller pots the openings are usually staggered in tiers around the pot. They are ideally formed to allow planting of several strawberry (hence the name) or other plants in a limited space, and have been so used for years. Considering their adaptability to other plantings, it is surprising that they have not become more popular than they are.

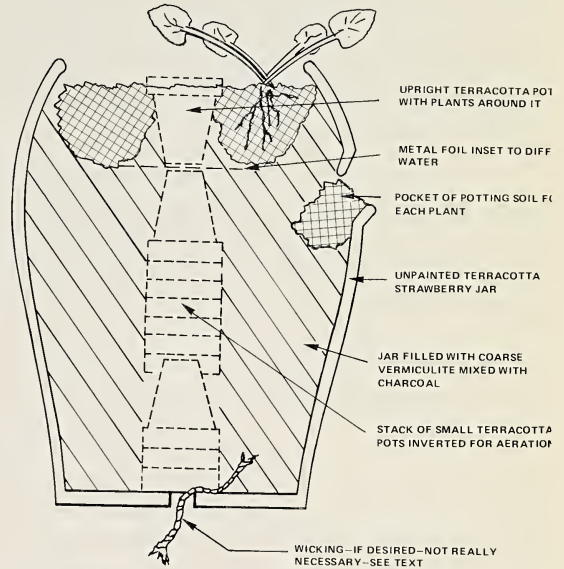


Figure 1. CROSS-SECTIONAL VIEW SHOWING THE SUGGESTED ARRANGEMENT FOR AN AFRICAN VIOLET PLANTING IN A STRAWBERRY JAR. ONLY ONE OF THE SEVERAL PLANTING POCKETS IS SHOWN.

Strawberry jars come in many different forms and are made from various materials including terra-cotta, plastic, glazed (fired) ceramic and painted terra-cotta. For African violets, only the unpainted terra-cotta (literally, "cooked-earth") fired unglazed clay porous enough to allow free passage of air and transpiration of water is recommended due to violet overwatering and root rot sensitivity.

Strawberry jars are available from department stores, plant shops and other sources. In general a jar 12 to 14 inches high and about six to eight inches in top diameter with from three to six side openings should be selected. Since the jar will be filled with coarse vermiculite (or perlite) which remains fairly well saturated with water, even a jar of above size is fairly heavy for frequent moving. A larger jar can be selected if it is not to be moved frequently, and if you have space to accommodate it. Single violet plants (not single flowered) are planted in each opening and three or four plants may be clustered around the top of the jar, depending upon its size and the mature size of the violets chosen.

I have one small jar with four miniature violets

('Tiny Blue' and 'Tiny Rose') around the sides and three more extra small plants ('Wee Delight') in the top. It has been blooming with abandon for several months in a west window with a sheer curtain in front of it.

*I do not claim to have originated the idea. Montague Free, as one example, discussed such a planting in his book, "All About African Violets", Doubleday and Co., Inc., (for the Literary Guild of America, Inc.), 1951, PP 71-76 and before PP 33. Dr. Free, it should be noted, indicated that a letter to the African Violet Society prompted him to try such a planting. A beautiful color picture of his planting is shown in his book (the "before page 33" reference above.)

A second, larger jar has six violets around the sides and three more in the top — all standard sized violets. I made the mistake of starting these from leaves inserted in the soil after the jar was prepared (not recommended) and while all of the leaves sprouted, the plants have developed with usual slowness and are just now reaching the blooming stage. Although, as I indicated, I do not recommend this method, it is useful for someone who has the patience to wait for the blooms and wishes to pass up the hassle of potting up half-grown plants. Prepare the jar as indicated in the following pages, eliminating the plants. When the soil in the jar is thoroughly moist, insert a leaf with the stem cut rather short in each soil cup, and three or four around the top. Keep the soil moist (without fertilizer) and wait. When the leaves sprout, carefully excise all but the most vigorous shoots, potting them up separately or discarding as desired. When the retained violet shoot has about three or four leaves, carefully cut off the original rooting leaf. A mild fertilizer solution may be used occasionally when the small plants have been well established.

For more immediate results I recommend the planting of blooming size violets. While the transplanting will delay the blooms temporarily as the plants become established, the favorable environment of the strawberry jar will have them blooming rather rapidly. Remove all bloom stalks prior to planting to ease the shock to the plant.

If you feel inspired to attempt a strawberry jar African violet planting, first select a suitable jar, keeping in mind the recommendation for a simple terra-cotta material. Assemble enough small terra-cotta (not plastic — they are for aeration) pots to make an upright column through the center of the jar (Figure 1). Use pots just large enough in diameter (one-and-one-half to three inches) to leave room for the planting of violets around the pot in the top of the strawberry jar. The other materials required are a couple of bags of coarse vermiculite or perlite with a generous helping of horticultural

charcoal, some light porous potting soil liberally laced with vermiculite and charcoal and, if required, some fiberglass wicking. Finally, carefully select (see the guidelines later in the article) enough violets to completely plant out the jar; one for each side opening and three or four for the top. Pick these out with care — once the planting is completed you'll be living with them for a long time!

Preparing and planting the jar is simplicity itself after all of the required materials and plants are obtained. The jar and smaller pots, if they have been previously used, should be washed in clear water and sterilized by boiling if desired. Any encrustations should be removed with steel wool or a relatively soap-free light abrasive pad and thoroughly rinsed. While the pots could be soaked for a few hours, it is not really necessary, since they quickly become water soaked when the jar is first watered.

Telescope the small pots and invert them over the drain hole in the bottom of the strawberry jar. If more than one drain hole is provided invert the pots in the center of the jar and cover the other holes with pottery shards or bottle caps. Lengths of fiberglass wicking may be placed through the drain hole(s) and run under the edge of the small pots if desired. This is not really necessary unless you intend to place the jar on top of a large container of water (add enough wicking to insure saturation) during extended absences; water in the jar base saucer will ordinarily keep the vermiculite filler saturated.

The column of pots placed in the jar should be high enough so that one small pot, placed right side up on the column is about one-half to one inch below the top rim of the jar. After the height of the column of pots is adjusted, remove the one upright pot and set it aside to be placed later. Center the column of pots in the jar and fill around them with coarse vermiculite mixed with plenty of charcoal; up to one-half charcoal in the mixture to keep the constantly moist filler from turning sour will be satisfactory. All of the following references to vermiculite will assume the vermiculite and charcoal mixture. Fill the jar with the vermiculite to about one or two inches below the lip of the lower planting holes in the jar with the mixture higher toward the center column of pots.

Remove the African violets to be placed in the bottom holes from their pots and wash or crumble off just enough soil to allow the root balls to fit through the holes in the jar, disturbing the roots as little as possible. Seat the violets well down through the holes and fill in around each root-ball with potting soil, firming gently and filling in all

cavities. Not much soil is required but it should be fairly well firmed to avoid later settling. The violets to be used should remain unwatered for two or three days prior to planting to render the leaf stems (petioles) more pliant; water gorged petioles are notoriously brittle and some breakage is to be expected. With all of the lower tier of violets seated, fill the jar to the next tier with the coarse vermiculite and repeat the violet planting, again filling in and firming down the soil.

To finish, fill the jar with vermiculite to the top of the inverted column of pots, place a piece of metal foil about three or four inches square flat on the vermiculite over the column of pots, center the remaining pot over the column open side up and add more vermiculite. Leave room for the top planting. The foil prevents water added to the top pot from draining straight down through the column of pots and distributes it through the vermiculite and soil.

Plant three or four violets (violet and jar size will have to be considered here) equally spaced around the top of the jar, taking care not to spill soil into the centered pot. Work the potting soil down in around the root balls with a pencil or spoon handle, taking care to fill all cavities and firming it gently. Work slowly to avoid breaking or bruising leaf stems.

Carefully examine each plant and remove any stubs from broken leaves, extra soil, etc. Spray gently with tepid water if necessary and allow to dry in a dark, warm place. Place the jar in its intended location in a plastic saucer about one-and-one-half inches deep and add water to the empty pot in the top. This water will seep through the drain hole in the bottom of the pot, spread out on the metal foil and saturate the vermiculite soil jar and pots. After the water has had plenty of time to drain down, fill the saucer at the bottom with water to complete the saturation. This is one time when the saucer under the jar may be kept constantly filled with water. I have never had a violet in a wet-footed strawberry jar succumb to root rot (but don't forget the charcoal in the vermiculite and potting soil!) After a month or two to allow the plants to become established, fertilizer (two or three drops in a quart of water) may be added to each watering.

If desired the drain hole on the top pot may be plugged and this pot kept full of water. This provides humidity for the top planting and the water slowly seeps through the pot to keep the planting moist. I have not found this to be necessary with jars up to 14 inches high, but it might be helpful for taller jars.

Each of my strawberry jar plantings sits on its

own small lazy Susan or turntable in front of a window providing good lighting, and is given a quarter-turn each morning. I add water to the saucer almost daily. So far efflorescence build-up has not been a problem, and the plants are all flourishing.

For the most effective planting and display some general pointers may be worth considering:

- * unless some special display is contemplated, it is recommended that the violet types not be mixed; i.e., don't mix boy and girl type foliage, or plain and variegated,
- * choose plants within the same general size range at potting time,
- * some judicious pruning may be required as the plants grow, a leaf from one plant may cover the crown of a neighbor, and should be "propped" out of the way or carefully clipped off,
- * remove fading leaves and bloom stalks cautiously until the plants have had time to become thoroughly rooted,
- * to balance out the display all of the plants selected should have generally the same blooming habits, because the display is primarily for your own benefit, free bloomers should be selected,
- * with the above in mind, mix singles, doubles, fringed, picotees and colors as you please (I have never seen any African violet colors clash seriously),
- * of necessity these plants will suffer from less uniform lighting conditions than a regularly grown plant, and this should be considered when plant selection is made.

Some potting soil may sift out of the plant holes initially. This causes no problems (except cleaning the base-saucer occasionally) and will stop as the soil becomes moist and the plant roots spread. As opposed to specimen plants grown for exhibition, violets may remain in a strawberry jar for several years before the stems become long enough for them to appear awkward. In fact the more mature plants, with stalks curling down and over the lips of the strawberry jar may have their own unique appeal. If efflorescence should become a problem and threaten stem rot, the stems may be insulated from the jar with a small piece of metal foil without detracting from the appearance of the planting.

Some effort should be made to keep an accurate record of the named varieties planted and their location, so that leaf cuttings may be rooted if desired. A diagram of the planting might be prepared and recorded with some starting reference point, or each plant may be identified by tag or tape. The appearance of the planting will be im-

proved if a separate record of the planted varieties is maintained and tags or tape are not used.

As a final suggestion the strawberry jar planting seems ideal for the trailing species of violet. Being short of window space, I have hesitated to consider such a planting. I did find it extremely difficult to walk away from the excellent display of trailing violets at the Behnke nursery last week without buying a half dozen or so. I will attempt such a planting one of these days, and in the meantime I believe most of the readers would appreciate hearing from all who may have tried such a planting.

(Editor's note: The author expresses appreciation to Mrs. Barbara Aiello and Miss Shirley McAlhaney of Tetra Tech, Inc., Arlington, VA for their excellent work and professional approach in assisting with the illustration and manuscript respectively.)

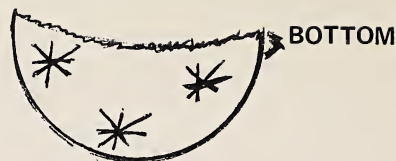
WICK WATERING

*Betsy Evans
4430 E. Presidio Place
Tucson, AR 85712*

This is a subject that has a story behind it. The members of my African violet club were constantly raving about their success with wicking. I had tried this method of watering once and was dismayed to find the soil so wet. At our annual show last year an aquamatic was given to my grandmother who promptly gave it to me. For months it remained empty while I continued to stubbornly use the watering can. But finally the species *Ionantha* was large enough to transplant and I didn't have any room for it! So I dusted off that aquamatic and decided to try it out. Carefully following the instructions I placed the tiny plant in it. A living room table that had a western exposure seemed the ideal spot. Within a few months it had grown so much that I hardly recognized it. A few months later and I noticed buds. So I wicked my whole collection with spectacular success. I had broken from the shackles of the watering can and was now a "liberated" woman.

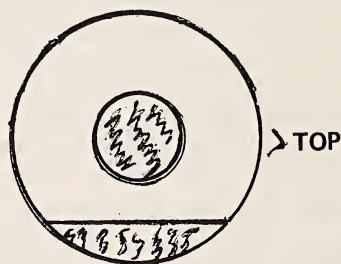
The actual wicking procedure is simplicity itself. For the bottoms I use those plastic tubs margarine come in. These are already decorated so they look pretty on your shelves. On the plastic top I draw a circle in the center and a watermelon wedge at one edge. With sharp scissors I cut these out.

Then I take an old pair of panty hose and begin cutting up the legs for wicks - mine are about 2-4 inches long and 1/2 inch thick (wide) for jumbo



sized plants, 4-6 inches long and 1/16 of an inch wide for the wee plants, graduate the size (the width of the wick) according to the size of the plant. A gallon of fertilizer (1/4 teaspoon per gallon of water) awaits.

I then take a narrow (metal for strength) crochet hook and insert it down through the pot until it comes out of one of the holes. Then I pull one end of the wick up into the pot by using a crochet hook I do not disturb the tender roots. Then I fill the container with fertilizer/water, snap the cut out lid on, place the pot on it so the wick goes through the center hole (the watermelon wedge is



so you can easily check the liquid and add more when it runs low), put on your plant stand and stand back!

If you have a really huge standard, of course the container and wick would have to be enlarged. The smaller the plant, the smaller the container and wick should be. This is so important that it certainly bears repeating.

DO YOU KNOW . . .

Where Dorsie J. Waters, 1904 W. Walnut, Springfield, MO 65806 may obtain 'Circus Boy', 'Circus Girl', 'Dardevil', and 'Wee Willie Winkle'? She is willing to purchase or trade for these violets. Ms. Waters also has 'Easter Bunny' on hand. We've had many inquiries about 'Easter Bunny'.

HUMIDITY

The African violet in its native habitat enjoys a natural humidity of from 60% to 70%.

REGISTRATION REPORT



Adele Tretter
4988 Schollmeyer
St. Louis, MO 63109

(NOTE TO REGISTRANTS: The Editor would like to use color slides of your newly registered violets in the Magazine. Use only light backgrounds. Dark slides cannot be reproduced. Send original color slides to Editor with name of plant and name of hybridizer.)

The following registrations have been received during the period from August 1, 1977 through October 1, 1977.

ALZIRA 3185 - WV-E 35 s-d S 8/24/77

MARIA ANDROLINA 3186 - O-P 45 s-df S 8/24/77

NOB HILL 3187 L-PR 58 s-d S 8/24/77

Gary R. Beck, 1226 Leavenworth, San Francisco, CA 94109

CELINE 3188 M-B 2 d S 8/26/77

The AVS of Staten Island, permission of Max Maas, Springfield, NJ

PEGGY'S BUSTOVER 3189 WO 2 s-d S 9/6/77

PEGGY'S DEBBIE 3190 M-PW-E 235 s-d S 9/6/77

PEGGY'S DIANE 3191 M-P 38 s S 9/6/77

PEGGY'S TONI 3192 D-P 238 df S 9/6/77

Mrs. John Kreska, 13574 Brookgreen Dr., Dallas, TX 75240

BERLIN BEAUTY 3193 D-B 3 s-dc S 9/6/77

BLUE SHADOWS 3194 D-B 2 s-d S 9/6/77

DARK BEAUTY 3195 V 3 sc S 9/6/77

GAYLA 3196 R-P 5 d S 9/6/77

MEXICO 3197 R 3 d S 9/6/77

OLIVIA 3198 P 2 s-d S 9/6/77

PURPLE CHARM 3199 B-V 2 d S 9/6/77

Volkman Bros., 2714 Minert St., Dallas, TX 75219

BEAUMONT 3200 V 3 s-d S 9/19/77

CANDY MAN 3201 V 37 d S 9/19/77

COUNTRY GENTLEMAN 3202 V 37 d S 9/19/77

LEGEND OF LOVE 3203 PX 28 d S 9/19/77

PICK-A-DILLY 3204 D-B 37 df S 9/19/77

REVEREND BLADES 3205 V 37 df S 9/19/77

House of Violets, 936-940 Garland St. SW, Camden, AK 71701

AMETHYST SPARKS 3206 OW 57 dc L 9/25/77

ANTIQUE CORAL 3207 M-P 37 d L 9/25/77

BRIGHT BUTTERFLY 3208 D-P 37 d L 9/25/77

CHERRY PARFAIT 3209 PW 357 df L 9/25/77

HEAVENLY HALO 3210 OW 378 d S 9/25/77

MIDGET RINGER 3211 D-P 279 c M 9/25/77

MISTY TRINKET 3212 L-P 37 d S-M 9/25/77

SAPPHIRE TRINKET 3213 D-B 37 d S-M 9/25/77

TRINKET WHITE CAPS 3214 WL-B-E 39 s S-M 9/25/77

Champion's AV, 8848 Vanhoesen Rd., Clay NY 13041

ALICE MARIE 3215 M-P 3 d S 9/25/77

BESS WILLIAMS 3216 R 5 dc S 9/25/77

DENA HAUGH 3217 L-P 2 d S-M 9/25/77

ELAINE 3218 D-RW-E 5 s-d S 9/25/77

MISTER COOK 3219 M-P 2 d S 9/25/77

PURPLE PRINCE 3220 D-V 3 d S 9/25/77

VOLKMANN'S CLOUD PINK 3221 P 2 dc S 9/25/77

Volkman Bros., 2714 Minert St., Dallas, TX 75219

RAINBOW'S CELESTE 3222 D-O-RW 9/26/77

RAINBOW'S KATHRYN 3223 D-R 2 d S 9/26/77

RAINBOW'S RAGSAMUFFIN 3224 P 3 s-d S 9/26/77

RAINBOW'S SHADO 3225 PV 3 s-d S 9/26/77

David Hirt, 1130 E. Main St., American Fork, UT 84003

ABIGAIL ADAMS 3226 L-BX 2 sd-dc S 9/29/77

Irene Fredette, 972 Grassy Hill Rd. Orange, CT 06477

Reservations

The following reservations have been received during the same period as above.

DADDY BUG—YUNIPER BEAR—META LOUISE Reserved by Alen E. Lybarger, 9610 Bays Rd., Cygnet, OH 43413 8/8/77

FORDORY—OPAL ANN—BLUANNA Reserved

by Mrs. Laverne K. Burke, 2475 Virginia Ave.,
Washington, DC 20037 9/15/77

ANTHONY — AUSTEX — BALI HAI — BIG
TEX — BOLD CHARM — BOLD DANCE — COL-
VIN BOWDEN — COTTON CANDY — CRAZY
QUILT — DIXIE DOTTIE — DIXIE DREAM —
DIXIE PRINCESS — GLAD MORNING — GOVER-
NOR PRYOR — JACK SWIFT — JUNE SWIFT —
LILAC LOU — MARANATHA — MON-
TGOMERY BELLE — OCTA FAYE — OH SUGAR
— OLGA — OUACHITA BLUES — PINK SUNSET
— PINK SWISS — RALPH CHARLES — SATIN
SHEETS — SPRING — WATERS — TIZ BLUE —
TOUCH OF WONDER Reserved by The House of
Violets, 936-940 Garland St. SW, Camden, AK
71701 9/15/77

CAPTIVA — COQUINA — SEA ROBIN —
STELLAR OCEANIS — GRENADONA — LITTLE
SEABIRD — NIGHT MOTH — RIPTIDE — TE-
QUILA SUNRISE — DESPERADO — MARIPOSA
— SUMMER BUTTERFLY — COCO PLUM —
MAIDEN VOYAGE — SANIBEL Reserved by San-
dra Leary, 2088 Illinois Ave., NE, St. Petersburg, FL
33703 9/20/77

DO'S DREAMER—DO'S SPITFIRE—DO'S
DUBLOOM—DO'S SPLASHES—DO'S JENNY
Reserved by Violets Galore of Georgia, 3482 Misty
Valley Rd., Decatur, GA 30032 9/20/77

ELVIS PRESLEY—MASTERPIECE—DAVID'S
SPRING SONG David Buttram, P. O. Box 193, In-
dependence, MO 64051 9/21/77

RAINBOW'S COSMIC CORAL—RAINBOW'S
STAR WARS—RAINBOW'S LIZ—RAINBOW'S
SUGAR PLUM—RAINBOW'S JEFFERY—RAIN-
BOW'S BOULDER SKIES—RAINBOW'S JOAN-
NI—RAINBOW'S RUTH—RAINBOW'S SWIRLS
Reserved by David S. Hirt, 1130 E. Main St.,
American Fork, UT 84003 9/26/77

AFRICAN QUEEN Reserved by Deborah J. Good,
5735 Roswell Rd. NE #E-4 Atlanta, GA 7/28/77

Cancellations

LONA BELLE BUCKLEY—GRAPETTE—CHEER-
FUL CHANCE—CARELESS LOVE

Renewals

RUFFIAN—CREE-CREE Renewed by Suzanne
Kollitz

Corrections

ANNIE MAE listed in 1977 supplement should
have been registered #2482 9/26/74

GRANDDAD 3120 4/14/77 Change from
miniature to Standard D-BW-E 57 d S

CORRECTIONS

Please make these corrections in your registra-
tion list and Master Variety list.

June magazine reservation list had MUSICIAN
spelled incorrect.

LITTLE DOGWOOD — TINY TIM —
LITTLE LOU have been changed from semi's to
miniatures.

DENIM BLUE and LITTLE LULU are semiminia-
tures, JOYFUL has been changed from standard to
semiminature. SNOW JET has been changed to a
semiminature.



MINNESOTA SHOW—This history table (top
photo) commemorated the silver anniversary of
the African Violet Society of Minnesota. Violets
on the table represented past and existing clubs by
the same name. Pictures of memorable past shows
were displayed and an honor roll of all clubs was
held in place by the number 25 on the table. In
lower photo admiring Sally Seifert's 'Lisa', Best in
Show, are Irene Fiedler, (left), whose 'Forever
White' won best single and Michael Parvey, who
won best in novice with 'Elfriede'.



"RUTH"

*Mrs. K. (Sharon) Dick
3709 Crawford Drive
Rockville, MD 20851*

Ruth was beautiful! I didn't have enough praise to give this plant which was pleasing me with an endless number of deep purple blooms.

One day I said to my husband, "This plant's a winner!" Ho, Ho, Ho, he laughed.

A week later, after my husband had left for work, I sat down to read the morning newspaper. An African violet show was to be held today! What an opportunity for Ruth! I immediately phoned over to determine the entry procedure, and to find out if my "pet" Ruth would be eligible. Yes, Ruth was eligible, but the entry deadline was in 30 minutes.

My husband had taken the car to work, but I did have a bicycle with a carrier that I could use.

Excitedly, I grabbed Ruth and, to "spruce" her up, gave her a quick shower under the tap. It had been raining rather steadily, so I slipped on my raincoat, put Ruth in the bicycle carrier and we were off.

There were still a few entries being most carefully taken in paper padded boxes from car to exhibition. Not having been to an African violet show before, I didn't realize how carefully a prospective "winner" is treated! Poor old Ruth had even lost a few leaves on the mad dash over.

At the entry table the kind ladies were very obliging with their help.

"What is it called?" one said.

"Ruth," said I.

"But it must have a full name."

Patiently she looked up the complete name for me for the entry card.

"It must be groomed," she said.

"How do you do that?"

"Well, it must have a symmetrical leaf formation, and dead blossoms must be removed."

"Oh."

So, quickly I began pinching leaves off to give me what I thought was a symmetrical effect. Lastly, she presented me with some aluminum foil to wrap the pot.

Ruth was whisked into the judging room where we "proud parents" were not allowed.

Ribbon cutting ceremonies were to be held at 2 p.m. when the eager owners could see how their horticultural pets fared.

My daughter, son and I were there on the dot

of 2. The ribbon was cut and we rushed in, filing past all the plants looking for our Ruth.

There she was with a lovely blue ribbon on a stick announcing her glory! How proud we were!

We circulated around the tables enjoying the competition.

One lady came up to me and said, "I didn't know you were an African violet fancier."

"Oh yes," said I.

Another said, "Yours is so pretty. I've been preparing mine for this competition for two months. How did you prepare yours?"

"Just tender loving care," said I.

Walking through the rows of pampered plants my eyes lit up each time a plant captivated my fancy. My interest in African violets had suddenly skyrocketed! However, there were so many beauties it was hard to decide which to get. So, taking a pencil and a piece of paper, I went through the rows once again, noting down my very favorites. When I reached the end of this circuit I made my way over to the table where leaves and small plants were being sold at bargain prices. I came away literally loaded with violets.

At the end of the show I picked up Ruth, eagerly returned home gloating over her victory and anxious to tell my husband, "I told you so!"

Here I sit, several months later, dreaming of new victories, surrounded by a house full of future winners!



'THE KING'—Here's the best horticulture specimen, 'The King,' displayed at the First Austin AVS show. The plant was shown by Mrs. L. E. Lidiak. (Photo by Leary)

DUSTY TUBES

Fluorescent tubes should be cleaned when they become dusty.

HIGHLIGHTS, PROGRAMWISE FOR AUSTIN CONVENTION

*Mrs. J. A. W. (Ann) Richardson
Convention Program Chairman*

The forthcoming convention in Austin will be particularly outstanding. From Wednesday morning when Mrs. Henry Bircher starts the Judging School to Saturday morning ending with the installation of officers, conventioners' only problem will be "How can I get into everything?"

The tours cover the Austin area Garden Center; a Panoramic City Tour; a Tour of Historical Austin; the LBJ Library and University of Texas; as well as a spectacular river boat ride in San Antonio and the Alamo with lunch and a big paddlewheeler up the river to Greenshore for a barbecue dinner.

The workshops will be ones you simply will not want to miss. Don't forget that tickets must be acquired so we may know how to plan. There will be a workshop on Energy, Efficiency, Enervation in a Plant Room; Texas Style Growing; Insects Affecting African Violets; a special on arrangements; How African Violet Trailers are Grown, Groomed and Judged; and The Rest of the Family; all designed for

your pleasure and further education.

Those who have never seen an AVSA Convention Show have a big treat in store and think of the fun you will have buying from all our most prominent commercial members.

Our Thursday night speaker is Richard E. Norris of Texas A&M University who will give us a Salinity Program with Light and Water Demonstration. Wow!

On Friday we will have the first of Friday evenings when instead of a speaker, after the awards, we will relax and have fun. We hope to have a Mariachi band which we know will be enjoyed by all.

Saturday is a business day with the Annual Meeting and the Installation of Officers but we will also have a workshop devoted to the rest of the family.

If you don't want to go home, but want things to go on and on, just remember there is Denver to look forward to in 1979.

ATTENTION: QUALIFIED JUDGES

All qualified judges who desire to judge in the Austin convention show, please fill in the blank and mail to Mrs. James B. Carey, 3900 Garden Drive, Knoxville, TN 37918, no later than March 1, 1978. If you plan to enter in the show, please indicate which class or classes.

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

AVSA Judge _____ Lifetime Judge _____

Gesneriad Judge _____

Miniature Judge _____

Semiminiature Judge _____

National Council Judge _____

Judging Experience _____

FINE COLLARS

Plastic half-gallon and one-gallon milk cartons make fine collars for your violets. They will not absorb water, look clean, and are just stiff enough to handle easily.

RESERVATIONS FOR CLASS IN THE DESIGN DIVISION

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Mail the above blank to Mrs. Bret Evans, 1317 Progress, San Marcos, TX 78666 no later than March 1, 1978.

Please note each exhibitor will be limited to 4 entries in the design division, which includes classes 34, through 47. Any entries after March 1, will be accepted only if there is a cancellation.

ADVANCE REGISTRATION FOR JUDGING SCHOOL FOR NEW AND REFRESHER JUDGES

Driskill Hotel

Austin, Texas

Wednesday, April 12, 1978

A class for new and refresher judges will be held from 7:45 a.m. to 12:00 noon for judges desiring to refresh their certificates and for those desiring to become new judges. The examination and point score judging will be held on Wednesday afternoon 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. Registration fee is \$1.00.

Name _____ Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Sign blank and send registration fee of \$1.00 to Mrs. Henry Bircher, 7666 Bentler Rd. N.E., Canton, OH 44721, no later than March 15, 1978 if you wish to attend. Please read the latest Handbook before coming to the class.



TOP CHOICE SHOW — Top awards given at the 5th annual show of the Top Choice AVS of Shreveport, LA are shown in the top photo. In the lower picture are Mrs. T. K. Thomas (left) holding her plant, 'Nancy Reagan', Best in Show, and Mrs. O. P. Wilson (right) with her plant, 'Mark', which won the Honorable Mention Award.



SHOW HOSTS AND HOSTESSES

Anyone interested in serving as host or hostess during the time the Texas Convention Show is open, please send the following blank to: Mrs. George C. Gorzycki, 3306 Clearview Drive, Austin, TX 78703, no later than March 10, 1978:

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

THE KNOW—NO SEASON VIOLET

Rhoda Retkovis

Each flower has a season of its own... Whether grown indoors or out... From bulbs, tubers or seeds sown... You know them all, no doubt... Just for fun, let us name some... According to their time of year... In early spring the crocus come... And daffodils and tulips appear... Next come the woodland violets, sweet... The hyacinths and lilacs too... The roses come with summer's heat... In fall the mums and asters are due... There are flowers by the score... That bloom at a certain time... All are beautiful, and more... Some have a fragrance sublime... But African Violets know no season... They bloom all year long... You will find they are most pleasin'... Grow some, you can't go wrong!

Tours Set for 1978 Convention

Mary Ann Nelson
Tour Chairman



The Alamo

Monday, April 10, 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. — Springtime at Austin's Zilker Garden Center. An Austin tour van will shuttle guests from the Driskill and Stephen F. Austin hotels to the Zilker Garden Center at 1:00, 2:00, and 3:00 p.m. with return trips at 2:30, 3:30, and 4:00 p.m. Austin AVSA members will be at the Garden Center to guide you through this truly lovely Austin landmark where Mother Nature displays her most beautiful examples of a floral wonderland. See such botanical highlights as the Biblical Garden, Rose Garden, Oriental Garden, Garden of the Blind, Water Garden and many others.

Tuesday, April 11, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - LBJ Country. Travel with us through the beautiful Texas Hill Country to the famous Texas White House at the ranch of President Lyndon Johnson. Tour the ranchlands, birthplace, and cemetery where LBJ is buried. Travel into the past with a visit to the

neighboring Sauer-Boeckmann's farm which is operated by the Texas Park Service exactly as it was back in the 1920's. Lunch will be a traditional Texas picnic of fried chicken, potato salad, cole slaw, homemade bread, iced tea and peach cobbler served family style on the banks of the Pedernales River, "just a piece down the road" from the ranch.

Tuesday, April 11, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - San Antonio: Heritage and Beauty. A leisurely ride to the south of Austin brings us to the city of San Antonio whose charm is in the living contrast between past and present. Reminders of the past such as the Alamo and La Villita illustrate a cultural heritage over 200 years old. Spend an enchanting hour in Texas' most historic shrine - The Alamo. Founded in 1718 by Franciscan padres, the Alamo is preserved to appear today as it was during the eventful days of March, 1836, when such heroes as Davy Crockett, James Bowie, and William Travis lost their lives in the famous battle for Texas independence. Ride the tour boats on the scenic San Antonio River as it winds its way through the beautifully landscaped heart of the city and understand why San Antonio is often called the "Venice of America". Tour La Villita, a little Spanish town, and relax in the nostalgic atmosphere of another time. Discover the many shops and historical exhibits displaying memorabilia and artifacts from San Antonio's rich past. A delicious salad luncheon of shrimp, chicken, and fruit will be served in the lovely garden setting of The Gazebo at Los Patios, a restaurant renowned for both its elegance and its cuisine. You will have time to browse through the unique shops and plant nursery in this beautiful natural setting.

Tuesday, April 11, 5:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. - Riverboat Commodore. A short bus trip will take you to the landing for the Riverboat Commodore. The Commodore is a stern-wheeler designed in the tradition of the old Mississippi River boats. During the trip up beautiful Lake Austin, you will view some of Austin's most beautiful homes and parks along the shoreline. To enhance your enjoyment, a lively Dixieland Band will add an air of festivity to the trip. Upon arrival at Greenshores, home port for the Commodore, you will be treated to a real Texas style barbecue with all the trimmings. The one hour return trip down Lake Austin provides the perfect ending for a truly fun-filled day. Remember that the return trip will be after dark and a light wrap is suggested.



Riverboat Commodore

Wednesday, April 12, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
-Same tours as Tuesday, allowing guests to choose the alternate tours. Sorry — no repeat of the Riverboat Commodore.

Wednesday, April 12, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
-**Austin Tour.** This tour will display a fascinating overview of the capitol city with visits to the city's most famous historical and current points of interest. There will be brief walking tours of the capitol building and the LBJ Presidential Library.

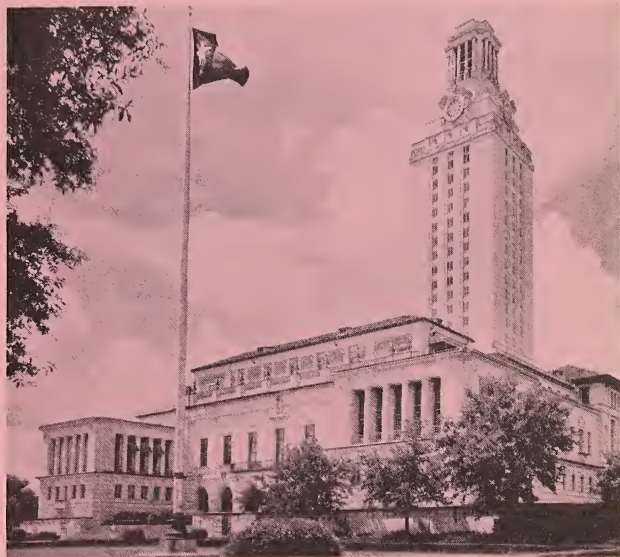
Thursday, April 13, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
-**Zilker Garden Center.** A repeat of Monday's charming tour with the addition of a drive through one of Austin's most beautiful residential areas.

Thursday, April 13, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
-**Historical Austin Tour.** Guests will visit the 122 year old Governor's Mansion, Laguna Gloria Art Museum, and Elizabeth Ney Studio. This tour is really a "must" for the history buff.

Thursday, April 13, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
-**Austin Tour.** Same as Wednesday afternoon tour.

Thursday, April 13, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. or 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Highland Mall Shopping Spree. Guests will be provided with courtesy buses to take them to Highland Mall, one of Austin's largest, with over 80 shops including several fine restaurants. Here you can program your own shopping spree and pick up those gifts and souvenirs for family and friends back home. Highland Mall is completely air conditioned and has escalators serving all levels. Notice the different departure schedules for buses.

Friday, April 14, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - A Detailed Look at the LBJ Library. Another "must" tour for those interested in an in-depth look at the fascinating world of a man who occupied the nation's highest office. The LBJ Library, located on The



University of Texas Tower

University of Texas campus, is regarded by many as one of Austin's most notable points of interest. The library houses all of the important papers of LBJ as well as many other excellent exhibits such as a replica of the White House Oval Office as it was during the LBJ years.

Now you have the details for this year's tours. We have tried to be versatile and include something for everyone. The plans have been made and the arrangements finalized. The fun is up to you. We'll see you in Austin, Y'all come.



SEED STARTER — Here's Stim-U-Plant's compact thermostatically controlled electric growth chamber and seed starter, which maintains a uniform 75 degree temperature. It is designed of leak-proof one-piece molded high-impact styrene. A non-electric item is also available.

WARM SPRAY

Increase humidity among your plants by using a fine warm spray.

African Violet Society of America, Inc.

32nd Annual Convention

APRIL 10 - 15, 1978 DRISKILL HOTEL OR STEPHEN F. AUSTIN HOTEL AUSTIN, TEXAS

CALL FOR 1978 ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., will be held Saturday, April 15, 1978 at 9 a.m. at the Driskill Hotel for the purpose of electing officers and transacting business that may properly come before the meeting.

CALL FOR 1978 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board of Directors meeting will be held at the Driskill Hotel Tuesday, April 11, 1978 at 8:00 p.m. for the purpose of transacting business that may properly come before the meeting.

Melva B. Nelson, President
African Violet Society of America, Inc.

HOTEL RESERVATION FOR 1978 AVSA CONVENTION AND ANNUAL MEETING

Note: The hotels listed below are across the street from one another. The show, commercial sales room, and hospitality suite will be in the Driskill with the workshops and most meal functions being in the Stephen F. Austin.

Mail Reservations to the Reservation Clerk of the hotel of your choice:

DRISKILL HOTEL
117 E. 17th St.
Austin, TX 78701

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN HOTEL
701 Congress Avenue
Austin, TX 78701

Room Rates: (Add 6% Room Tax)

- () \$28.00 Single
- () 35.00 Double

8.00 extra per extra person. Limit
of 4 persons to a sleeping room.

Room Rates: (Add 6% Room Tax)

- () \$24.50 Full size bed, \$5.00 additional person. Room limit - 2 people.
- () 26.50 King size bed, \$5.00 additional person.
- () 32.50 Double/double, \$2.00 additional for 4th person
- () 37.50 Executive Suite (1 Room, King-size bed with sofa), \$2.00 additional for 2nd person
- 7.50 for rollaway beds available in some rooms.

Time _____ AM
Arrival Date _____ PM

Time _____ AM
Departure Date _____ PM

Name: _____

Address _____
Street or Box No. City or Town State Zip

Please reserve accommodations as checked above

Free parking for guests registered at either hotel.

To be eligible for special AVSA Convention rates given above registration must be made on this pink form or photostat of same.

Send this blank plus check to the hotel of your choice (see address above.)

Reservations for rooms must be received not later than March 24 if you desire to receive accommodation rates available to AVSA Convention Members. Reservations will be held only until 6 pm of the day of arrival unless check is sent or confirmation of a later time is specified.

AVSA CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

APRIL 10 - 15, 1978

DRISKILL HOTEL
AUSTIN, TEXAS

Check Your Status:	Board Member ()	Judge ()
Individual Member ()	Life Member ()	Life-Time Judge ()
Commercial Member ()	Honorary Life Member ()	Judging-School Teacher ()

This is my _____ convention (First, second, 30th or ?)
PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS BEFORE MARCH 24, 1978. BE SURE TO BRING
YOUR 1978 - 79 AVSA MEMBERSHIP CARD

Please Print:

Name: Mr/Mrs./Miss _____
(check one) (last name) (first name) (middle initial)

Address: _____
(street or P. O. Box) (City or State) (Zip Code)

One registration fee for convention shall admit any two members of family residing at same address. Please check how many are desired for meal functions, tours and/or workshops. We must know definitely for how many to prepare.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEE

Number

_____ Entire Convention:	Early Bird.....\$6.50	After March 24...\$8.00	_____	_____
_____ One day only:	Early Bird.....\$3.50	After March 24...\$5.00	_____	_____

MEALS

_____ Thursday Dinner Meeting.....	\$10.00	_____
_____ Friday Luncheon Meeting.....	7.50	_____
_____ Friday Banquet Meeting.....	12.00	_____
_____ Thursday Teachers' Workshop Breakfast (teachers only).....	2.75	_____
_____ Friday Commercial Members' Workshop Breakfast.....	5.00	_____
_____ Friday Judges' Exhibitors' Workshop Breakfast (for everyone).....	2.75	_____

TOURS

_____ A. Monday - Austin Area Garden Center.....	\$ 2.50	_____
_____ B. Tuesday, all day - San Antonio Tour - Lunch included.....	18.50	_____
_____ C. Tuesday, all day - LBJ Ranch - Texas Hill Country Tour.....	16.50	_____
_____ D. Tuesday evening - Commodore Boat Ride - dinner included.....	18.00	_____
_____ E. Wednesday, all day - San Antonio Tour (same as Tour B).....	18.00	_____
_____ F. Wednesday, all day - LBJ Ranch - Texas Hill Country (same as Tour C).....	16.50	_____
_____ G. Wednesday afternoon - Panoramic City Tour.....	5.00	_____
_____ H. Thursday morning - Austin Area Garden Center and Austin Homes Tour.....	5.00	_____
_____ I. Thursday morning - City Tour of Historical Austin	5.00	_____
_____ J. Thursday afternoon - Highland Mall Shopping Tour (meal not included).		_____
Please mark number in party for bus reservations.....No Charge		
_____ K. Thursday afternoon - Panoramic City Tour (same as Tour G).....	5.00	_____
_____ L. Friday morning - LBJ Library and The University of Texas Tour.....	5.00	_____

(continued on next page)

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Workshops. Please check the workshops that you wish to attend for which you will receive a ticket (no charge). No one may enter the room without a ticket until immediately before the workshop starts, at which time those without tickets will be seated if space is available. Outstanding tickets for workshops will be void once the program has begun.

Number:

- ☐ A. Energy, Efficiency, Enervation in a Plant Room
- ☐ B. Texas Style Growing
- ☐ C. Insects Affecting African Violets
- ☐ D. Arranging African Violets for Show
- ☐ E. How African Violet Trailers Are Grown and Groomed

NO
CHARGE

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____
MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE AVSA IN US FUNDS ON AN AMERICAN BANK

Send reservations **not later than MARCH 24, 1978**, to Registration Chairman, Mrs. J. D. Spence, 6808 Duquesne, Austin, TX 78723. Reservations will not be honored without remittance.

If you wish to be seated with some particular individual(s) at meal functions, send reservation forms together.

Please assist the committee by making reservations early. Your badge, program, and tickets will be ready on your arrival. Your name will appear in the Souvenir Booklet if your reservations are made by March 24, 1978.

REFUND S: If circumstances make it necessary to change plans, contact the Registration Chairman before March 29, 1978, and your money will be refunded.

Y'ALL COME TO TEXAS!

*Mrs. Rosemary Thompson
Publicity Chairman
6602 Knollwood Cove
Austin, TX 78731*

Howdy y'all, from deep in the heart of Texas! All the Texas members of AVSA wish to take this opportunity to invite each of you to come to the AVSA Convention of '78 to be held April 10—15 in Austin, Texas.

Before telling you about the Convention plans, we want you to know something about our state. Although Texans are known to brag a lot, we believe there is a lot to brag about. Texas was the largest of the 48 until Alaska joined and made it number two. But we still claim number-one status in being the state with the friendliest people—especially the flower folks. Among other things, Texas is known for its variable weather. The old saying being that "Only fools and strangers will predict Texas weather," and with the many types of terrain Texas is blessed with (or cursed with, depending upon where you are), the old weather saying holds true. The state can boast of its Rocky Mountain foothills

in the far west; the dry, dusty, arid plains in the mid-west; high flat plateaus of the extreme north (known as "The Panhandle"); the gentle slopes and pine forests of East Texas; citrus orchards and truck farms at the southern tip — referred to as "The Valley"; and the Gulf-coast plains known for cattle ranches, oil wells, rice patties, deep-sea fishing, and well-filled beaches.

Austin is centrally located in the area referred to as The Hill Country (or LBJ Country if you will). The city is beautifully nestled in a valley with hills to the northwest and rich farm land rolling to the southeast. The beautiful Texas Colorado River flows through the central part of the city. One of Austin's more noted citizens of the past, O. Henry, dubbed it as "The City of the Violet Crown" — a hue that appears in the hills to the west at sunset on a clear autumn day.

Carrying the monicker "The Friendly City",

Austin is one of the cleanest cities in the state. Its primary industries — education, state government, and electronic research/manufacturing — leaves the air clean and unspoiled. One of its focal points, the Capitol Building, boasts of being the highest of all in the U.S. by 7 feet. The University of Texas at Austin with its 42,000+ students along with five other institutions of higher learning produces a city of students within a city. It is also blessed with an abundant water supply, being located on a lake which is the last in a chain of 95 miles of lakes formed on the Colorado River. These rivers and lakes keep the area on the humid side which is ideal for our African violets.

President Johnson did much to put Texas “on the map”, and Lady Bird Johnson has also had a profound influence with her beautification programs. Highways and byways all over the state abound with wildflowers and blooming shrubs, with the central portion of the state particularly noted for its fields of bluebonnets (the state flower). For those of you driving from the north, east or west, you should reach Texas when the bluebonnets are at their peak. The roadsides and open fields should be a mass of color from bluebonnets interspersed with pink and yellow buttercups, prairie phlox, wine cups, and the brilliant yellow-orange of the Indian paint brush. Hopefully, the wild flowers will cooperate and “do their thing” for our visitors. For those of you flying into our tree-sheltered city, tours will enable you to take in some of the Bluebonnet Trail of Texas.

Since Texas has so many things to offer the Tour Committee has outdone themselves with tours starting on Monday and continuing through Friday morning. Plans are to take you on a tour of San Antonio to visit the Alamo; a trip to the LBJ Ranch in the Hill Country with an ole fashioned picnic served in the country; a moonlight trip on a riverboat up Lake Austin; a visit through the State Capitol, Governor's Mansion, Texas Memorial Museum, LBJ Library, plus short walking tours, a shopping trip and other historical and current places of interest.

In addition to your usual convention togs, bring comfortable walking shoes and casual clothes and a light wrap or sweater if you plan to go on the riverboat ride. Weather at this time of the year will probably (?) be mild, but a sweater can be useful at times, especially in the evening. Bring your most colorful evening outfit for the big Tex-Mex Banquet and grand finale on Friday night.

Accommodations for the convention will be in not one, but two hotels — the historic Driskill and its sister hotel, the Stephen F. Austin. These hotels are located in the center of the downtown area and have only a one-way street between them, making access to either just a few steps away. Since Texas believes

in doing things big, both hotels are devoting all of their facilities to the AVSA convention for the entire week. Banquets and workshops will be held in the Stephen F. Austin while registration, show room, and commercial sales rooms will be located in the Driskill. The beautiful Crystal Ballroom and adjacent mezzanine area, which has been the setting for many a gala state function, will make a beautiful backdrop for displaying your specimen plants and design entries. The grapevine has it that numerous Commercial Members will have a variety of plants in the sales room (which will be in the plush Maximilian Room), and there will be some Texas “goodies” you haven't seen yet.

The Hospitality Committee is also going all out with plans to open the Driskill's luxurious Jim Hogg Suite from Monday afternoon through Friday for your convenience.

Information booths will be set up on the mezzanine of both hotels with someone available to answer your questions. They will have maps of Austin, bus schedules, walking-tour information, and brochures telling of the many things to do and see around the city. Within a four-block radius of the hotels you will find the Capitol, Governor's Mansion, many specialty shops, a large department store, movie theatres, and restaurants. A list is being compiled of the many specialty restaurants in the city that can be reached by foot, bus or taxi.

Well, we would go on and on but — we believe this is one convention you really won't want to miss, so as we say in Texas — ‘Y’ALL COME.”

How's Your pH?

Did you know that pH is merely the negative logarithm of the Hydrogen-ion concentration of any solution, expressed in gram-ions of Hydrogen per liter?

“It's just as simple as that”, says Lou Jordy of Kissimmee, FL.

“Pure water, which is completely neutral, has a pH of 7, and the absolute limits run from a minimum of 0 to a maximum of 14. Anything that has a pH less than 7 is on the acid side, and the smaller the figure the more the acidity. Anything larger than 7 is on the alkaline side — and you'd better stay over there, because if it ever dropped that low in your internal workings you wouldn't be around to listen to the siren songs of the TV commercials.

“One more little detail: Note that pH values are expressed in logarithms to the base 10, not to the base “e” used for natural logarithms.

“Now is everything perfectly clear?”

CONVENTION SHOW SCHEDULE

THEME: "DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS"

DRISKILL HOTEL, AUSTIN, TEXAS

APRIL 13—14, 1978

AMATEUR SECTION

HORTICULTURE DIVISION

Section I Single blossoms

Class

1. Purple, dark blue
2. Light to medium blue
3. Pink
4. Dark pink, coral
5. Red, fuchsia
6. Orchid, lavender
7. White
8. Two-tone, multicolor

Section II Double blossoms

Class

9. Purple, dark blue
10. Light to medium blue
11. Pink
12. Dark pink, coral
13. Red, fuchsia
14. Orchid, lavender
15. White
16. Two-tone, multicolor

Section III Edged blossoms

Class

17. Geneva
18. All other edged blossoms

Section IV Variegated foliage

Class

19. Standard varieties, any type or size of blossom

Section V Miniature (single or double blossoms, including variegated foliage)

Class

20. Blue, purple and lavender
21. Pink and red (all shades)
22. White
23. Two-tone, multicolor, or any edged blossoms

Section VI Semiminiature (single or double blossoms, including variegated foliage)

Class

24. Blue, purple and lavender
25. Pink and red (all shades)
26. White
27. Two-tone, multicolor or any edged blossoms

Section VII Single or double blossom, any foliage

Class

28. Collection of three registered varieties, all of which must be the same type, standard, miniature, semiminiature or African violet trailers. To compete for AVSA Collection awards, gold and purple rosettes. (See rules 5, 8, and 15.)
29. Plants in unusual, decorative or novel containers. Each exhibitor will be permitted one entry consisting of one plant (single crown or trailer) planted in the container. (See rule 5)
30. New Introductions (See rule 9)
 - A. Seedlings
 - B. Sports or mutants
31. Specimen plants
 - A. African violet species (such as *S. grotei*, *S. confusa*, etc)
 - B. African violet trailers (All types)
 - C. Hanging baskets

Section VIII Other gesneriads

Class

32. *Episcia*, *gloxinia*, etc.
33. Miniature gesneriads (other than African violets) in regular pot or growing in clear glass container. May or may not be decorative, with cover permitted. More than one entry permitted, in A or B, but they must be different varieties.
 - A. One plant only
 - B. Two or more plants of the same variety

DESIGN DIVISION

Each exhibitor will be limited to 4 entries in the design division, which includes classes 34 through 48.

Section IX

Artistic Plantings - All classes in this section must consist of one or more blooming African violet plants removed from the pot, used in a pleasing design with other growing or cut plant material that has the appearance of growing. No artificial flowers, foliage, fruits or vegetables permitted. Dried, treated or painted plant material may be used.

Pale sea green backgrounds, supplied by the staging committee will be used, 29" high, 20" wide, approximately 10" deep, unless other-

wise stated. Draping and backdrops permitted. Bases and accessories optional, unless so stated in the class.

Class

34. "Texas Coastline," - Texas boasts one of the longest coastlines in the United States with over 700 miles of sandy beaches. An artistic planting encouraging use of sea shells, driftwood, etc., catching the mood of sea and shore with suitable accessories. Limit of 4 entries.
35. "Wild Life" - Texas is the home of abundant wild life, and the wintering ground for such rarities as the whooping crane. Wild turkey, deer, rattlesnake and roadrunners are frequent sights in less densely populated areas of the state. Planting designed around some form of wild life, using appropriate accessories. Limit of 4 entries.
36. "King Ranch" - A million acres of ranchland sprawled across South Texas making up this ranch of fame and legend, which lists among its accomplishments the development of the Santa Gertrudis breed of cattle. Planting portraying ranch life and lore. Limit of 4 entries.
37. "Remember the Alamo" - Everyone remembers the Alamo for its famous battle but often forget it was one of the first five missions established in Texas. Planting suggesting reverence or serenity. Limit of 4 entries.
38. "Treasure in Texas" - Texas is blessed with an abundance of natural resources. Oil, cotton and timber are just a few which have led to great industries in the state. Planting depicting industry in Texas. Limit of 4 entries.
39. Terrariums
"Big Thicket" - This wooded area in Deep East Texas is being set aside as a national preserve. It has a unique ecological environment which shelters many endangered species of plants and animals within its swamplike woods. A planting in a transparent covered container. Space provided 30" from floor, 15" deep, 24" wide. Limit of 8 entries.
40. Dish Gardens
"Big Bend" - Thousands of square miles of desert and volcanic mountain formations of the Big Bend area continue to defy encroachment of civilization, but yet draw vacationers to camp, hike, hunt and fish. A planting in any type container, but it must not have a cover. Space provided 30" from floor, 15" deep, 20" wide. Limit of 8 entries.

Section X

Arrangements. Cut African violet blossoms are to be featured. Other cut plant material

permitted. Treated, dried or painted material may be used. No artificial flowers, foliage, fruits or vegetables permitted.

Pale sea green backgrounds, supplied by the staging committee will be used, 29" high, 20" wide, approximately 10" deep unless otherwise stated. Draping and backdrops permitted. Bases and accessories optional.

Class

41. "Tower Lights" - Austin is the home of unique moonlight towers installed in 1895 to illuminate the city with artificial moonlight every night. An arrangement incorporating the use of candles. Limit of 4 entries.
42. "If It's Texas Weather, It's Unpredictable" - Depict in a line arrangement likely weather conditions in Texas, that is, springtime showers, wind, lightning, etc. Limit of 4 entries.
43. "Country Music" - Austin is one of the centers of progressive country music. An arrangement with a musical concept. Limit of 4 entries.
44. "Tex-Mex" - Much of Texas tradition is based on early relationship with its South-of-the-Border neighbor. An arrangement with a Mexican flavor. Limit of 4 entries.
45. "Land of Milk and Honey" - Texas' tropical valley provides fruits and vegetables for much of the nation. An arrangement which includes fruits and/or vegetables. Limit of 4 entries.
46. "Theme of the Show" - An arrangement interpreting the theme of the show, "Deep In The Heart Of Texas". Let your imagination run wild . . . tell us your idea of Texas. Limit of 4 entries.
47. "Highland Lakes" - A seemingly endless ribbon of lakes winds through the heart of Texas. An arrangement suggesting lake recreation. Limit of 4 entries.
48. "Texas Heritage" - Countless old homes dating back to the early 1800's still stand throughout the state, remnants of early Texas settlers. A small arrangement using a container symbolic of that era staged in a lighted shadow box 7" wide x 9" high x 11" deep, light green in color with dark blue velvet background. Limit of 16 entries.

Section XI Special Exhibits Division

Class

49. "Affiliate Yearbooks" - (See rule 19)
50. "Affiliate Publications" - (See rule 20)
 - A. Newsletters (16 pages or less)
 - B. Magazines (More than 16 pages)
 - C. Newsletters or magazines for exhibition only.
51. "Educational Exhibit" (By invitation only)

AMATEUR DIVISION RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Entries must be made between 2:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 12, 1978, and between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 13, 1978.

2. Plants arriving too late to be entered will be shown for exhibition only.

3. Only clean healthy plants will be accepted, and must have been in the possession of the exhibitor for at least three months.

4. An exhibitor may enter only one plant of each variety in classes 1 through 27.

5. An exhibitor may enter plants of the same variety in classes 28 and 29 as those entered in classes 1 through 27.

6. Each variety must be correctly named or subject to correction by the classification committee.

7. The Society will afford all possible protection to exhibits, but will not be responsible for any losses.

8. All plants entered in classes 1 through 30 must be single crown plants except trailers in the collection (class 28) and unusual containers (class 29), which may be multiple crown.

9. Any number of seedlings may be entered provided they have been originated by the exhibitor or released rights given in writing, and not previously shown at a convention show.

10. Only blue ribbon winners will be eligible to receive special or AVSA awards.

11. If an entry is not entered by the owner, the name of such person making the entry must be on the back of the entry tag.

12. No flared top pots, supports or collars under foliage will be permitted. Any shape of pots for specimen plants will be accepted. For uniformity, all pots must be covered with dull side of aluminum foil. Exhibitors are to print their names on adhesive tape and attach to the bottom of the foil covered pots.

13. All entries in both amateur and commercial sections must be removed at 12:00 midnight Friday and from 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Saturday, April 15. Show will be closed at 12:00 midnight Friday.

14. The show will be judged by merit method of judging, the decision of the judges will be final. Only qualified AVSA judges will be permitted to judge.

15. All amateur AVSA members may enter Class 28 to compete for AVSA Collection (Gold and Purple Rosette Awards). (See Society awards).

16. Any African violet entered in AVSA collection class 28, receiving a blue ribbon is also eligible for any other special award.

17. Only AVSA members in good standing are eligible to enter exhibits in convention shows.

18. Anyone desiring to reserve space to enter in

the Artistic Planting and/or Arrangements classes, send your blank to Mrs. Bret Evans, 1317 Progress, San Marcos, TX 78666 by March 1, 1978. Each exhibitor will be limited to 4 entries in the design division, which includes classes 34 through 48. Any entries after March 1, will be accepted only if there is a cancellation.

19. All club yearbooks entered in class 49 must be mailed to Mrs. Dwight W. Jeffrey, 1918 Williamsburg Row, Denton, TX 76201 by March 1, 1978, and will be judged by the scale of points for yearbooks. These books must be no larger than 5½ x 8½ inches, being the same book that all club members receive. Books exceeding the maximum size will be disqualified. Only affiliate organizations are eligible to enter in this class.

20. Affiliate Publications entered in class 50 must be mailed to Mrs. W. F. Anderson, 360 Tulip Drive, St. Louis, MO 63119 by March 1, 1978. Only Affiliates are eligible. All issues published between March 1, 1977 and February 28, 1978 shall be submitted and shall be identical to those received by members. Maximum size 8½ x 11 inches. Copy of revised scale of points available upon request.

COMMERCIAL SHOW SCHEDULE

Section I Specimen Plants

- Class 1. New Introductions
 - A. Seedlings
 - B. Sports or mutants
- 2. Any other specimen plants. All varieties African violets, species and other gesneriads.
- 3. AVSA Collection of three registered varieties, all of which must be of the same type, either three all standard, three all miniature, three all semiminature or three all African violet trailers, either standard or miniature to compete for AVSA Gold and Purple Rosettes. (See Collection Award rules)

Section II - Display Tables

- Class 4. Specimen plants
- 5. New Introductions
 - A. Seedlings
 - B. Sports or mutants

RULES SECTION I

- 1. Classes 1, 2 and 3 are open to all AVSA Commercial Members who do not have a display table.
- 2. Any exhibitor may enter any number of

African violets, species or other gesneriads, but only one plant of the same variety.

3. Any number of seedlings may be entered provided they have been originated by the exhibitor or released rights given in writing.

4. Same rules and regulations as in Amateur Division apply to Section I. Only clean healthy plants will be permitted to the show. Also note times for making entries.

RULES SECTION II DISPLAY TABLES

5. Entries are open to all Commercial Members who do not have an entry in Section I.

6. Each display shall contain not less than 15 nor more than 25 plants. Three miniature or semiminature plants shall count as one specimen plant and shall be judged as one unit. The display must be predominately (at least 75%) African violets. *Episcias*, *columneas* and other gesneriads on the table shall count as a part of the total 25 and will be judged.

7. All African violets shall be single crown with the exception of species and trailers.

8. No other plant material, such as ivy or philodendrum may be used in decorating the display.

9. Same rules and regulations as Amateur Division shall apply where applicable. Only, clean, healthy plants will be admitted to the show. Also note times for making entries and dismantling.

10. Each plant entered for competition for New Introduction Award must be labeled to designate whether it is a seedling, sport or mutant. Entries for New Introduction Award must have been originated by the exhibitor or released rights given in writing and not previously shown at an AVSA convention show.

11. Eight foot tables with three tiers will be furnished and all will be uniformly covered. Uniform name signs will be furnished for all exhibitors. No name signs, no name cards nor codes which will identify the exhibitor may be displayed prior to judging.

12. Merit judging will be used in Class 4 with blue, red and white ribbons awarded as merited. Class 5 will be judged by AVSA scale of points for seedlings. Blue, red and white rosettes will be awarded as merited. Competitive judging will be used to determine best New Introduction.

13. Commercial Silver Trophies and an Honorable Mention Rosette will be awarded as merited to the exhibitors receiving the highest number of points, accumulated as follows: Blue Rosette - 15 points; Red Rosette - 13 points; White Rosette - 10 points; Blue Ribbons - 5 points; Red Ribbon - 3 points; White Ribbon - 1 point.

For further information on display and show entries, please contact:

Jimmy Watson, Chairman
Commercial Sales and Exhibits
1361 Madison Ave. Apt. 2-AA
New York, N.Y. 10028

1978 Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee respectfully submits the following slate of officers for the election to be held at the annual business meeting of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. at Austin, Texas, April 15, 1978.'

OFFICERS

President—Mrs. Marvin Garner, North Canton, OH.

First Vice President—Mrs. W. J. Krogman, Brookfield, WI.

Second Vice President—Mr. Harvey Stone, Marblehead, MA.

Third Vice President—Mrs. J.A.W. Richardson, Tavares, FL.

Secretary—Mrs. H. N. Hansen, Jenkintown, PA.

Treasurer—Miss Florence Garrity, Roslindale, MA.

DIRECTORS—1978-1981

Ms. Penelope Ann Brenner, New Orleans, LA.

Mrs. Ralph Cava, N. Haledon, NJ.

Mrs. John Lackner, Little Canada, MN.

Miss Edith Peterson, San Francisco, CA.

Mrs. Fred C. Young, Austin, TX.

Nominating Committee of the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

Past President—Mrs. W. F. Anderson.

Past President—Mrs. Harold Rienhardt.

Member of Committee—Mrs. Richard Chase.

Member of Committee—Mrs. Charles S. Hawley.

Chairman—Mrs. Sidney Bogin.

MILDEW

Mildew occurs on the leaf surface and flowers of violets as a gray fuzz. It is the same mildew which attacks many outdoors plants such as zinnias, etc. It occurs during periods of muggy weather and poor ventilation. Picking diseased parts off perhaps can control it. If badly infected, powdered sulfur can be applied sparingly. Sulfur will burn the open flowers.

THE 1978 CONVENTION SHOW

Society Awards

AVSA Silver Cup—to the best registered variety in classes 1 thru 28 in the amateur division.

Award of Merit Rosette and \$15 cash to the second best registered variety in classes 1 thru 28 in the amateur division.

Honorable Mention Rosette and \$10 cash for the third best registered variety in classes 1 thru 28 in the amateur division.

AVSA Collection Award for three registered different varieties — Gold rosette for best collection; purple rosette for second best collection in class 28 in the amateur show.

Trophies for Commercial Display Tables—silver bowl for best; silver tray, second; 6" Paul Revere bowl, third; Honorable Mention Rosette, fourth.

New Introduction Award—A plaque will be awarded to the commercial member having the best new introduction, commercial class 5.

Commercial Silver Cup—To the exhibitor of the best registered variety in commercial classes 2 and 3.

AVSA Collection Award for three registered different varieties—Gold rosette, best collection; purple rosette, second in commercial class 3.

AVSA Sweepstakes Award—Three silver bowls and three rosettes to be awarded to the six AVSA members who have won the most blue ribbons in horticulture classes: Two silver bowls and two rosettes will be awarded to the four AVSA members who have won the most blue ribbons in design classes in

shows sponsored by Affiliates during the calendar year from January 1 thru December 31, 1977. If there is a tie in the blue ribbons; red ribbons shall be counted; if a tie still exists, white ribbons shall be counted. If still a tie, the winner shall be selected by the drawing of names. Winners will be announced at the annual Friday night banquet. The President or Secretary of the Affiliate must send the AVSA Awards Chairman, Mrs. Richard A. Chase, 482 Rutherford Avenue, Redwood City, CA 94061, by March 1, 1978 the following information: (a) Name of organization, (b) Name and address of member, (c) Number of ribbons won, (d) Dates and places of shows. This is an amateur award and not open to members qualifying as commercials in accordance with Article II, paragraph 2, of the AVSA Bylaws.

Yearbook Awards—Class 49, four awards as follows: First prize, \$15; second, \$10; third, \$5; fourth, \$4.

Publication Award—Class 50, A and B as follows: A—Newsletters (16 pages or less); first, blue rosette; second, red rosette. B—Magazines (more than 16 pages); first, blue rosette; second, red rosette.

Standard Show Achievement Award—A special blue rosette will be awarded at this convention to the Affiliate that has won the Standard Show Award (green rosette) with at least 95 points during the calendar year from January 1 thru December 31, 1977.

SPECIAL AMATEUR AWARDS

Horticulture Division

Section I—Specimen plants, single blossoms.

Class 1—Purple and dark blue: 1st, Ventura County AVS, \$10; 2nd, AVSA Judges' Council of Northern CA, \$5.

Class 2—Light to medium blue: 1st, Indianapolis AVC, \$10.

Class 3—Pink: 1st, First Austin AVS, \$10; 2nd, Florence Garrity, \$5.

Class 4—Dark pink, coral: 1st, AVC of Greater Atlanta, silver bowl; 2nd, Florence Garrity, \$5.

Class 5—Red, fuchsia: 1st, Metropolitan Regional Council of AV Judges', silver trophy; 2nd, Mrs. Raymond E. Hertel, \$5.

Class 6—Orchid, lavender: 1st, Wm. Plaster, \$10; 2nd, Celine Chase, \$5.

Class 7—White: 1st, San Francisco AVS, \$10; 2nd, Mrs. W. A. Fowler, \$5.

Class 8—Two-tone, multicolor: 1st, Mrs. L. F. Lidiak, \$10; 2nd, Helen Van Zele, \$5.

Section II—Specimen plants, double blossoms.

Class 9—Purple, dark blue: 1st, Stim-U-Plant, \$25 and plaque; 2nd, Nightshade AVC, \$5.

Class 10—Light to medium blue: 1st, Indianapolis AVC, \$10; 2nd, Herbert W. Hughes, \$5.

Class 11—Pink: 1st, Mrs. J. A. W. Richardson, \$10; 2nd, \$5.

Class 12—Dark pink, coral: 1st, Top Choice AVS, \$10; 2nd, Mrs. Mary S. Garrity, Memorial, \$5.

Class 13—Red, fuchsia: 1st, Stim-U-Plant, \$25 and plaque; 2nd, Joan Van Zele, \$10.

Class 14—Orchid, lavender: 1st, AVS of Staten Island, \$10; 2nd, Helen Belle Hughes, \$5.

Class 15—White: 1st, Stim-U-Plant, \$25 and plaque; 2nd, Helen Van Zele, \$10.

Class 16—Two-tone, multicolor: 1st, Rocky Mountain AV Council, \$10; 2nd, Barbara Cevera, \$5.

Section III—Specimen plants, edged blossoms.

Class 17—Geneva edged: 1st, Evening Violeteers AVC, \$10; 2nd, Helene Hibbard, \$5.

Class 18—All other edged blossoms: 1st, Indianapolis AVC, \$10; 2nd, ABC's of African Violets, hand painted container.

Section IV—Specimen plants, variegated foliage.

Class 19—Standard varieties, any type or size of blossom: 1st, The Rocky Potters, \$10; 2nd, Mildred Hughes, \$5.

Section V—Miniature (single or double blossoms, including variegated foliage).

Class 20—Blue, purple and lavender: 1st, First Austin AVS, \$10; 2nd, Mrs. Lester Fladt, \$5.

Class 21—Pink and red (all shades): 1st, Mrs. Wayne Schroeder, \$10; 2nd, Jeanne Newman, \$5.

Class 22—White: 1st, Indianapolis AVC, \$10; 2nd, ABC's of African Violets, hand painted container.

Class 23—Two-tone, multicolor, or any edged blossoms: 1st, Helen Van Zele, \$10; 2nd, Memphis and Shelby County AVS, \$5.

Classes 20 thru 23—Best variegated miniature; North Shore AVS of Long Island, trophy.

Classes 20 thru 23—Best miniature: St. Louis AV Judges' Council, \$15.

Section VI—Semiminiature (single or double blossoms, including variegated foliage).

Class 24—Blue, purple and lavender: 1st, Indianapolis AVC, \$10; 2nd, Bluff City AVC, \$5.

Class 25—Pink and red: 1st, First AVS of Wichita Falls, \$10; 2nd, \$5.

Class 26—White: 1st, Mrs. Marvin Garner, \$10; 2nd, First AVS of Wichita Falls, \$5.

Class 27—Two-tone, multicolor, or any edged blossoms: 1st, Mrs. Pat Dudley and Mrs. Charles Ramser, \$10.

Classes 24 thru 27—Best variegated semiminiature: The Brazos Valley AVC, \$10.

Section VII—Single or double blossoms, any foliage.

Class 28—Collection of three registered different varieties, all of which must be the same type, standard, miniature, semiminiature or trailers: 1st, Tube Craft, FloraCart; 2nd, Nature Island, Inc., Gro Light Stand, EG—30.

Classes 1 thru 28—Best registered variety, Stim-U-Plant, \$50 and plaque.

Class 29—Unusual containers: 1st, First AVS of Dallas, \$10; 2nd, Los Angeles AVS, \$5.

Class 30—New Introductions

A—Seedlings: 1st, Mid-County Saintpaulians, \$10.

B—Sports or mutants: 1st, Saintpaulia Society of

St. Louis, silver.

Class 31—Specimen plants

A—African violet species: 1st, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn B. Hudson, \$10; 2nd \$5.

B—African violet trailers (hybrid): 1st, Mrs. John H. McCoy, silver; 2nd, Los Angeles AVS, \$5.

C—Hanging baskets: 1st, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Steven, \$10.

Section VIII—Other gesneriads.

Class 32—Episcia, gloxinia, etc.: 1st, Mrs. Percy F. Crane, \$10; 2nd, \$5.

Class 33—Miniature gesneriads (other than African violets) in regular pot or growing in clear glass container. May or may not be decorative, with cover permitted. More than one entry permitted, in A or B, but they must be different varieties.

A—One plant only: 1st, Wisconsin Council of AV Clubs, \$10; 2nd, \$5.

B—Two or more plants of the same variety: 1st, Houston Gesneriad Society, \$10.

Classes 1 thru 33—Sweepstakes in horticulture:

New York City AVS, silver; 2nd highest number of blue ribbons, Wisconsin Council of AV Clubs, \$10.

DESIGNATED PLANT AWARDS

Class 3—'Superfection', Catherine Hawley, \$10.

Class 13—'Burgundy Rose', Jodie Davis, cut glass plate.

Class 15—'Faith', Mrs. Lester Fladt, \$5.

Class 15—'Geviene', Spring Branch AVC, \$25.

Class 16—'Edith V. Peterson', Miss Edith V. Peterson, \$10.

Class 16—'Poodle Top', Tinari Greenhouses, copper tray.

Class 16—'Ruth Carey', Tinari Greenhouses, copper tray.

Class 16—'Colorado Rosebud', Mrs. Paul W. Kiesling, \$5.

Class 16—'Janey Briscoe', Jodie Davis, cut glass plate.

Class 16—'Fashionaire', Granger Gardens, \$50.

Class 16—'Arlingtonaire', First Arlington AVS, \$10.

Class 17—'Millie Blair', Granger Gardens, \$50.

Class 17—'Millie Blair', Northern CA Council, 2nd, \$25.

Class 17—'Hondo', First AVS of San Antonio, \$10.

Class 17—'Kansas City Chief', AVS of Greater Kansas City, \$10.

Class 18—'Sandra', Sandra Leary, \$10.

Class 18—'Baby Doe', Mrs. Paul W. Kiesling, \$5.

Class 13—'Helene', Lyndon Lyon, \$25.

Class 18—'Corpus Christi', Corpus Christi AVS, \$10.

Class 19—'Winter Grape', Mrs. Mary V. Boose, \$10.

Class 23—'Mini Fantasy', Tinari Greenhouses, mini copper tray.

Class 25—'Little Jim', Jimmy Watson, silver.

Class 25—'Bergen Strawberry Sherbert', Bergen County AVS, \$10.

Class 25—'Dora Baker', Mrs. Harold Baker, \$10.

Class 27—'Dardevil', Mr. and Mrs. Frank Burton, antique silver piece.

Class 27—'Beginner's Luck', Mr. and Mrs. Mickey Ray, Plants-N-Motion.

Class 32—'Episcia', 'Cleopatra', Mr. and Mrs. Don Monroe, \$15.

DESIGN DIVISION

Section IX—Artistic Plantings.

Class 34—"Texas Coastline", 1st, Twilight AVS, \$10; 2nd, AVSA Judges' Council of Northern CA, \$5.

Class 35—"Wild Life", 1st, Miss Sandra M. Lex, \$10.

Class 36—"King Ranch", 1st, Union County Chapter of AVSA, \$10; 2nd, Celine Chase, \$5.

Class 37—"Remember the Alamo", 1st, The Alamo AVS, \$10; 2nd, \$5.

Class 38—"Treasure in Texas", 1st, NASA Area AVS, \$10.

Class 39—Terrariums: "Big Thicket", 1st, "Wm. R. Smith 2nd Annual Memorial Award", Edd Stretch

Smith \$10.

Class 40—Dish Gardens: "Big Bend", 1st, Frist Austin AVS, \$10.

Classes 34 thru 40—Best artistic planting: The Alamo AVS, \$10.

Section X—Arrangements.

Class 41—"Tower Lights", 1st, Edd Stretch Smith, \$10; 2nd, Helen Van Zele, \$5.

Class 42—"If It's Texas Weather, It's Unpredictable", 1st, Heart of Texas AVS, \$10.

Class 43—"Country Music", 1st, First Nighter AVS, \$10; 2nd, Helen Van Zele, \$5.

Class 44—"Tex-Mex", 1st, Milwaukee AVS, \$10.

Class 45—"Land of Milk and Honey", 1st, AVS of Greater New York, \$10.

Class 46—"Deep in the Heart of Texas", 1st, North Texas AV Judges' Council, \$10; 2nd, Edward Bradford, \$5.

Class 47—"Highland Lakes", 1st, The Violet Harmony Club of Ft. Worth, \$10; 2nd, Edward Bradford, \$5.

Class 48—"Texas Heritage", 1st, Mrs. W. F. Anderson, \$10; 2nd, Celine Chase, miniature glass vase.

Classes 41 thru 48—Best entry in arrangements: AVS of Lower Buck's County, Renton milk glass, "Violets in the Snow".

Classes 34 thru 48—Sweepstakes, Metropolitan St. Louis AVS, \$15.

Classes 1 thru 48—President's Award, Mrs. Edward A. Nelson, most blue ribbons, pewter.

Ruth Carey Award for Affiliate Chapter Leadership, Silver.

SPECIAL COMMERCIAL AWARDS

Section I—Specimen plants.

Class 1—New introductions

A—Seedlings: 1st, Helen Van Zele, \$10; 2nd, \$5.

B—Sports or mutants: 1st, Mr. and Mrs. Carleton Butler, \$10.

Class 2—Any other specimen plants. All varieties African violets, species and other gesneriads.

Class 2—African violet species: 1st, Mrs. Marvin Garner, \$10.

Class 2—Gesneriads: 1st, Anna and Ray Dooley, \$10.

Class 3—AVSA Collection of three registered different varieties, all of which must be of the same type: 1st, 'Win Albright Memorial Award'—Mrs. Marian E. Albright, \$15; 2nd, \$10.

Classes 2 and 3—Best single AV, Crestwood Violetry, silver.

Classes 2 and 3—Best geneva AV, Crestwood

Violetry, silver.

Classes 2 and 3—Best double red, AV, Mrs. William Krogman, \$10.

Classes 2 and 3—Best of 'Happy Harold', 'Top Dollar' or 'Nancy Reagan', Rienhardt's African Violets, \$10.

Classes 1 thru 3—Sweepstakes, Jimmy Watson, silver.

Section II—Display tables.

Class 4—Specimen plants: 1st, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Burton, Antique china.

Class 5—New introductions.

A—Seedlings: 1st, Joan Van Zele, \$10.

B—Sports or mutants: 1st, Joan Van Zele, \$10.

Classes 4 and 5—Best horticultural perfection: New York State AVS, silver.

Classes 4 and 5—Fourth best display table, Joan Van Zele, \$10.

Husband Fashions Wrought Iron Shelf

Wendell Bird, a retired Montana rancher, fashioned a beautiful wrought iron shelf for his wife, Maradell, for her African violets.

"Being a retired rancher makes my husband a Jack of all trades and master of several", Mrs. Bird says. "Living 52 miles from the closest (small) town, he became a Master welder and metal craftsman. When it appeared that the violets would take over the whole house, he came home with some half-inch angle iron, etc., and fashioned a beautiful wrought iron shelf that fills the entire eight-foot north window in the living room. It has just enough scroll work fashioned after other wrought iron in the house to make it very beautiful. It has two tall tiers on either side with four shelves each, that are two-foot by two-foot. These are connected by two shelves 4-foot by 2-foot that are window height and the other eight inches lower. All have glass shelves.



Wrought iron shelf fashioned by Wendell Bird fills entire 8-foot north window in living room

"The plant stand measures 76" high by 101" long over all. The 1/4" plate glass shelves on either side are 24"x24" and the two center plate glass shelves are 48" by 30". Under the valance above,

are two four-foot fluorescent lights with Gro-lux bulbs. I believe it has been established that the Gro-lux lights do not aid in the growth of violets any more than any other lights, but the red and blue rays do make the blossoms look ever so much more beautiful.

"The statue of the bare foot boy eating cherries and the little girl to the right were brought over from Germany by my family in the early 1870's. They were brought up the Missouri River by boat to Fort Benton, Montana, and then taken from there to Helena by covered wagon, arriving in Helena in early 1879. Our modern day movies that show the treasures of the pioneer women being unloaded and left on the prairies were not always the rule, thank goodness! I sometimes think about how carefully these prize objects must have been packed to have taken such a journey and arrived unharmed."

The do's and the don'ts

- D**o keep the leaves free from dust
- Do remove spent blossoms and dead leaves.
- Do give plants plenty of light.
- Do feed plants with weak solution of recommended AV fertilizer and tepid water.
- Do check each plant daily.
- Do keep violets segregated from other plants.
- D**on't place violets in a draft.
- Don't place violets in direct sunlight.
- Don't overwater.
- Don't wet leaves when plants are in natural ght.
- Don't allow center of plants to become wet.
- Don't allow plants to become too dry.
- Don't use cold water.

- T**o make your violets happy give them:
- Humidity
- Air
- Diffused light
- Tepid Water
- 65 - to 70 degree temperatures.
- 8 hours of complete darkness
- Soft music
- Lots of tender loving care



A Foote on the Violet Path

By Grace Foote

Mrs. Leland G. (Norma) Barnes of Midland, TX, has finished an interesting research on the effects of high concentrations of fluoride in water used on African violets, and says she's learned a great deal about what good and what poor water will do for African violets. Mrs. Barnes began her experiment after talking with Dr. Richard Craig of the University of Pennsylvania, a dinner speaker at the Atlanta AVSA convention. Her article concerning her research will appear in the African Violet Magazine . . . Sandra Leary, AVSA advertising manager, wondering if the St. Petersburg, FL post office had to put on extra men to deliver all the Special Delivery letters she received with last minute copy from advertisers the first month she moved from Austin . . . Jan McDonald and Judy Fragua, members of the newly organized ABC's of African Violets Club of Brownwood, TX, as happy as can be that they passed their exams at the school conducted by Ray Lange in Waco . . . Mrs. William L. (Nancy) Imhof, 1 Paula Place, New Monmouth, NJ, looking for African violet growers in central New Jersey, who are interested in becoming club members. Mrs. Imhof and four others have organized the Central New Jersey AV Club and would like to have persons living in Monmouth and Middlesex counties to contact her. As soon as the club is fully organized with enough members, it will become an AVSA Affiliate . . . Lucille Lausted, 296 East Street, P. O. Box 650, Lake Geneva, WI, trying to locate four African violets and wishing she could hear from other growers who may have them or know where they can be obtained. These violets are 'Kimberly', 'Minnesota Viking' and two plants of the late Mr. Elderkin, 'Greenwich Village' and 'Fool's Gold.' . . . Jeanne K. Hurlburt of Miami, FL has an idea she'd like to pass on to the African Violet Magazine readers. She says: "When I read my African Violet Magazine each month and find something very special I want to remember, I write it across the back on the white border. If I want a specific article or formula or hint, I can quickly go through the stack and do not even have to remove the clear wrapper. They are great!" (That's a great idea, Jean, but just keep your Cumulative Index (which comes out in January each year) handy and it'll help a lot, too, in finding a lot of things in the past year's magazines) . . . Helen Doster of Bettsville, OH writing that she had a cactus plant to bloom that had never bloomed before. "I discovered a bud in the cactus about the size of an egg before it opened," she wrote. "Then it was red about the size of a teacup. It had two or three-foot long sprawling limbs about an inch wide and scalloped. Out of one of these scallops a bloom came." . . . Sandra

Leary and Neva Anderson have given our inside cover page a new look with "Strictly Business—Your Business", with which all our magazine readers should be familiar. If you want to know anything about AVSA or the magazine, you'll find it there—or you'll find out to whom you can write and get the information you want. Personally, I'd like for all our Affiliate publicity chairmen to abide by the deadline dates listed for the magazine on that page. When you're a little late, I do try to get your show in "Coming Events" but when all my copy is in type, then it's entirely too late . . . And while we're talking about the magazine, if you've sent in an article with pictures for publication, and I've acknowledged receiving it, please be patient, for as soon as there's space in the magazine, it will be printed. Just at present I have quite a number of long articles. And as for color slides, keep 'em coming., If they can't be reproduced, we'll send 'em back and tell you why. But don't get discouraged. Keep up your photography. A day will come!

Her Way With Violets

Mrs. Rose Benke
Aurora, IL

Avoid overwatering and never let surplus water stand in saucer or pot container. Wet soil thoroly, using tepid water, but let soil become somewhat dry between waterings.

Locate plants where they will get plenty of light. Some winter sun is beneficial but avoid direct sunlight in other seasons.

Avoid moving plants from room to room. Find a spot where they are happy and leave them there.

Feed plants about twice a month when watering with a soluble fertilizer mixed at half the strength recommended.

Turn plants around occasionally so all parts receive equal light.

Wash plants occasionally. Use tepid water, spraying foliage gently. After washing, keep plants out of light until dry.

Before introducing new plants into your collection, keep them isolated for three or four weeks to be sure they are disease free.

Finally, give them a lot of tender, loving care.

Failure to receive magazine is to be reported to the AVSA office, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, TN 37901. NOT TO THE EDITOR.



Mrs. C. S. Hawley Hybridizes Many Beauties

(Photos by Hawley)

Paragon

Maywind



Mrs. O. D. St. Clair Gives Advice On Growing Violets



Mrs. O. D. St. Clair with 'Fandango'

Mrs. O. D. St. Clair of Madison, WI is like many of AVSA's 27,000 members who started out with just one African violet. She became interested in violets 15 years ago but then got "seriously interested" about seven years ago.

In the spotless basement of her pleasant home at 135 Kensington Drive she has about 500 African violets, all sizes, including "babies," and colors — purples, pinks, white and variegated. They're beautiful!

Much of Mrs. St. Clair's time is involved with violets. First, she has to water all those plants (she collects rain water on her upstairs balcony), fertilize them, repot them, start new ones and worry about insects and diseases.

Besides all this she faithfully reads *The African Violet Magazine* where there are color photos of eight pages of color photos in each issue and advertisements for hybrid seeds, lazy susans and gro-carts. Mrs. St. Clair is also a past president of the Crosstown AVC, one of two African violet groups in Madison. The other is the Countryside AVC. She was the subject of an interesting article written by Joan Judd in the *Wisconsin State Journal* recently.

Mrs. St. Clair attends the Wisconsin violet clubs' conventions and has attended national conventions, "judged shows" where "big growers from all over the U.S. and Canada bring hundreds of plants" and "it's just beautiful," she says.

Her club also holds an annual exhibit and sale, and it conducts programs for various organizations

and senior citizen groups.

"There are thousands of kinds of African violets; each year they develop new varieties," she says. One is the "trailer" which can be put in a hanging pot.

"You don't get nice African violets without taking care of them," she says. And, she points out, growers have different methods.

The most asked question is, "How often do you water them?" she says.

"Water only when they need it," she advises. "Feel in the pot. If the top is dry to the touch, then water them."

Some people water from the bottom, but Mrs. St. Clair waters from the top with enough warm (tepid) water (or warm rain water) so it goes through the plant into the saucer. Then she empties excess water out of the saucer in 30 minutes or so to prevent root rot. She says the violets can be misted with a little warm water once in a while; use water fit for drinking, she advises.

"The important things about growing violets are humidity, water, light and fertilizing, but the right amounts of all," she said. "It's something you have to find out for yourself. You can put them in one window and they won't do anything at all; you move them to another window and they're fine." In the summer, she prefers a south-east window; in winter, a northwest exposure, but generally any window that has strong, bright light is good.

Mrs. St. Clair says African violets are easier to grow under fluorescent lights — one warm white and one cool white light — "most of us use both," she said.

She prefers plastic to clay pots because they retain more moisture.

There are many recipes for fertilizing and soil, she said. She uses Hyponex (20-20-20), Peter's and fish emulsion half the strength recommended on the bottle or package.

Soil should be porous, she said. She uses half regular packaged sterilized potting soil and half African violet soil and adds a little charcoal to sweeten it.

Mrs. St. Clair says it's easy to propagate plants. Just break off a leaf from the third row from the center, cut the stem to about 1¼-inches long on a slant with a sharp knife, and set the cutting aside for a couple of hours to "dry." Then pot it in

vermiculite with a little African violet soil in it which has been dampened with warm water.

Freshly transplanted plants can be given a high-humidity start by totally enclosing plant and pot in a clear plastic bag and placing it in good light, but out of direct sun, she says.

Ideal humidity is 20 to 50 percent, Mrs. St. Clair said. It can be increased with humidifiers or by elevating plants on pebbles, overturned pots or wire.

She repots her violets every six months to one year.

ANSWERS

(Answers to test questions on Page 24)

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. True | 9. True | 17. False |
| 2. False | 10. False | 18. True |
| 3. True | 11. False | 19. False |
| 4. False | 12. False | 20. True |
| 5. True | 13. True | 21. False |
| 6. False | 14. True | 22. False |
| 7. True | 15. False | 23. True |
| 8. False | 16. True | 24. True |
| | | 25. False |

How About Making Own AV Pots?

*Howard S. Knaack
528 Ravine Ave.
Lake Bluff, IL 60044*

For a long time I've thought there was a great waste in the discarding of all the foam type drinking cups that are used in this country.

Then I started making pots out of some for my African violets.

I have found that for the 6½ oz. size, if you cut off the top 7/16 of an inch, and then slip this ring over the pot from the bottom you have a pot, that has the same proportions and appearance as a regular pot. Further, if you cut off the same amount from the bottom and then insert the cut off portion from the top, you have a tub type pot that has a distinct advantage for violets.

It is not necessary to invert the pot to remove the plant. All you have to do is to push up from the bottom, and the whole contents of the pot come out easily.

Holes may be melted in the bottom of the pot with a hot knitting needle or small soldering iron.

The 6½ oz. size is the equivalent of a 2½" pot. This pot also has the advantage of having a soft, round top edge that is not likely to injure tender leaf stems that come in contact with it.

ADEQUATE HUMIDITY

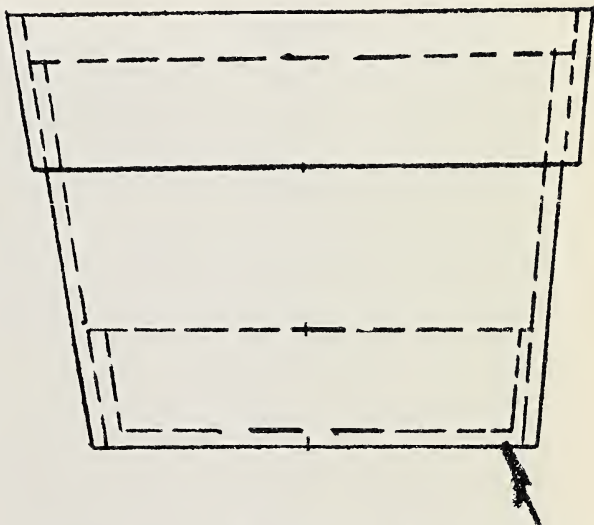
Lack of adequate humidity is the major cause of buds drying up and not opening. Try setting the plants on a tray of damp pebbles or vermiculite.

SQUATTY POTS

African violets usually respond better when grown in squatty pots. Since violets have shallow root systems, the roots will not fill the deep pot and the excess soil will sour.

The 8-9 oz. size cup makes a 3" pot, and the 12 oz size makes a 3½ to 4" pot, depending on how it is cut off.

Sketch shows approximate assembly.



Insert cut-off bottom from the top to make this 3" violet pot.

To remove plant for repotting, merely push up from bottom, this will allow you to remove plant from pot without getting dirt in the top of the plant, or without turning plant over.



**Lyndon Lyon
Continues to
Grow Them
Prettier
Each Year**

(Photos by B. Sarano)

Plum Sweet

Pink N' Ink





Wild Country

Happy Trails



Violets On Wheels

*Laila M. Whitfield
520 Cherry Creek Road
Marquette, MI 49855*

When my African violet collection had covered all of the windowsills and small tables in our home and was threatening to take over the dining room table, my husband volunteered to build carts for my plants. It's fortunate that his woodworking hobby is so compatible with my African violet hobby. Especially since my hobby has recently blossomed into a satisfying home business.

Because our home has many kinds of wood paneling and trim we both felt that carts built of wood, rather than the metal and plastic carts we had seen, would be more attractive.

The first cart my husband designed has two tiers or shelves; he has built three of this type. The fourth cart has three shelves and is perfect for the babies in styrofoam cups. My African violets, on wick watering, are on the two shelf carts where they have space to grow and reach full bloom.

The carts are built of $\frac{1}{4}$ inch plywood for the shelves and construction grade studding cut to size for the frames. Large casters make the carts easy to move for cleaning. Each shelf has a fluorescent light fixture (with two 40-watt bulbs and a wide reflector) suspended on chains so that the distance between lights and plants can be adjusted.

The finishing process included fine sanding, staining, sanding sealer, and three coats of urethane finish sanded between coats.

A slightly different grain of wood and shade of stain is evident among the four carts but this only adds to their attractiveness.

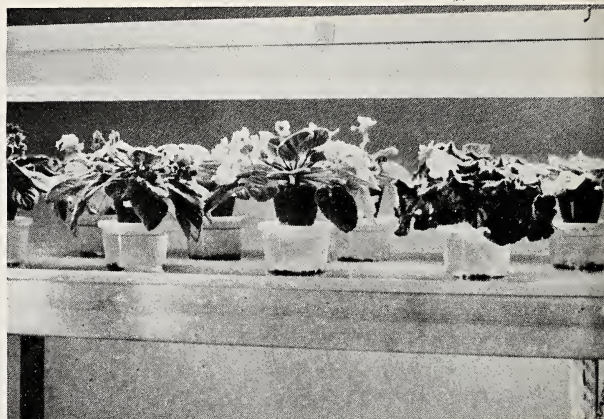
One cart with all my prettiest favorite violets (not for sale) decorates our living room. The other three carts are in my farm-sized kitchen and hold the babies and mature plants which are for sale.

The total cost of materials per two-tier cart came to about \$70.00. This amount is broken down into \$20.00 for the two lights, \$25.00 for lumber, \$15.00 for wiring, \$5.00 for casters, and the last \$5.00 for stain, urethane finish, screws, and sandpaper.

The three-tier cart did cost more due to the



ENJOY LIGHTS—Violets being grown by Leila M. Whitfield of Marquette, MI enjoy their lighted homes, which were constructed by Mrs. Whitfield's husband. The top photo shows a few of her miniatures under a Gro-Lux light on a topped table, also built by her husband. The lower photo shows the top shelf of a two-tier cart with African violets in full bloom. Her plants are wicked. "These particular reservoirs," Mrs. Whitfield explains, "are liver cups from the supermarket's meat department."



third light fixture and more wiring, lumber, screws, etc. And of course, more time!

There is no way I could pay my husband for the hours of time he has put into each cart—but I do remind him that he is enjoying his hobby.

MAGAZINE BINDERS

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Affiliate 'appenings

(NOTE TO PUBLICITY CHAIRMEN: Please, when sending typed articles concerning your shows, send the original copy to the EDITOR — not a carbon copy or copy-machined material.

Also PLEASE follow style used in following articles — then these do not have to be re-written for the Magazine.)

Betsy Evans, 4430 E. Presidio Place, Tucson, AZ 85712 says that Tucson is a resort city and many persons come from other states to spend the winter in that area. "Many of these people might be interested in our Tucson AVS meetings," she said. "We would like to invite any violet growers who are here for the winter to attend the meetings of the Tucson AVS, which are held at the Tucson Botanical Gardens, 2150 N. Alvernon Way. A night meeting is held the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. and a morning session is held at 9:30 a.m. on the fourth Monday of each month."

First AVS of Denton, TX held its annual show, "Violets in the Orient," with Shirley Jeffrey as show chairman. Awards were as follows: Best of show, 'Paige,' Best AVSA Collection, 'Window Bouquet,' 'Azure Trinket,' 'Wild Lemon,' best miniature, 'Wild Lemon,' Glennis Crouch; best arrangement, sweepstakes, best seedling, Shirley Jeffrey; creativity and best episcia, Bea Davis; best planting, Portia Hanson.

Friendship Gesneriad and AVS held its first annual show in Wylie, TX. "Violets in Springtime" was the show theme. Winners were: Sweepstakes (12 blue ribbons), best multicolor, 'Garnet Elf,' best miniature, 'Tiny Teen,' Doris Ridell; best in show, best trailer, 'Trail Along,' best decorated container, best artistic planting, best creativity award, Marge Marino; best variegated foliage, 'Nancy Reagan,' J. Ward, club president; best gesneriad; 'Sinningia Eumorphia,' Jeff Kirsch best episcia, 'Ember Lace,' Howard Kuhl; best blue, 'The King,' Linda Hilton; best pink 'Pink Panther,' best white, 'Snowbird,' Colene Barnett; best project plant, 'Cora Caper,' best arrangement, 'April Showers,' Paula Ward; Tricolor arrangement, 'Easter Parade,' Kay Crumley Best AVSA Collection, 'Coral Caper,' 'Tangier,' 'Christi Love,' Jo Cutts, show chairman.

"Pretty as a Picture" was the theme of the **Merrimac Valley AVS' 10th** annual show of which Mrs. Ollie Lech was show chairman. Award winners were: Best in Show, and Best in Jumbo Class, 'Serenity,' best miniature, 'Dynamite,' Lillian Prior; 2nd best in show, 'R. Mars,' AVSA Best Collection, (Gold Rosette), Mrs. Freni; 3rd best in show, 'Chanticleer,' Claire St. Aubin; best semiminature, 'Sweet Pea,' Dick Blustein; best seedling, John Roberge, Jr.; most unusual container, with 'Tiny Blue,' Charyle Koch; best novice, 'S. Natida,' best species, 'S. Natida,' Carroll Bacon; best design, 'Madonna and Child,' Connie Maginnis; 2nd best design, terrarium landscape, best novice design, Dick Koch.

The **Baltimore AVC** held its 23rd annual show, "Nature's Wonderland," in Towson, MD. Winners were as follows: Best AVSA Collection, 'Floral Fantasy,' 'Ballet Marta,' Jason, best in show and best double, 'Superba,' 2nd best in show, 'Pink Swan,' best geneva

edge, 'Olympus,' Diane Rase; 2nd Best AVSA Collection, 'Poodle Top,' 'Highland Fling,' 'Concord Purple,' best semiminature, 'Dora Baker,' best variegated, 'Parson's Faith,' sweepstakes, best club project, 'Lydia,' Edgar Rase, Governor Mandel Award, best design entry, 'By the Sea,' Betty Lages, best miniature, 'Little Delight,' Margaret Harcourt, best single, 'Garnet Elf,' Russell Jones, best gesneriad, 'Cleopatra,' John Ridinger, special Rosette for excellent educational exhibit.

Winners in the annual show, "Violets Tropicana," of the **Corpus Christi AVS** staged under the direction of Mrs. Renai Baker, president and show chairman, were as follows: Queen of Show, 'Nancy Reagan,' Gulf Breeze AVSA project, 'Pink Nimbus,' Mrs. Aline Slack; sweepstakes, 1st Maid of Honor, 'R. Mercury,' 2nd Maid of Honor, 'R. Mars,' best plant by Texas hybridizer, 'Texas Blue Treasure,' best double pink, 'Becky,' AVSA Best Collection, 'Pink Chanticleer,' 'Step-Up,' 'Musetta,' project plant, 'Coral Caper,' Mrs. Arlene Zmeskal; Princess, 'Pink Bud,' Dan Evans; best arrangement, Ray Lange.

The **Bergen County AVS' 20th** annual show, 'In a China Garden,' was held in Dumont, NJ. Awards, plants and winners were as follows: Best in Show, 'Becky,' 1st runner-up, 'Judy Garland,' 2nd runner-up, 'Mark,' best variegated, 'The Parson,' best geneva, 'Tiffany,' best plant of 'Bergen Lila Baxter,' best project, 'Valerie,' sweepstakes, Best AVSA Collection, Best New Jersey Council Collection, Sue Humphreys; best mini, 'Coco,' best semiminature, 'Little Lulu,' overall staging, Bob Humphreys; best blooming gesneriad, 'Kohleria,' best single, 'Garnet Elf,' best mini arrangement, Lois Buschke; best miniature gesneriad, 'Snowflake,' best plant of 'Bergen Strawberry Shortcake,' sweepstakes runner-up, Magda Kummich; best novice, 'Santa Maria,' Pat Toner; best in Bergen Series, 'Bergen Hilda Schutz,' Muriel Kaiser; best arrangement, Pat Christen; best non-member, Alice Ann Tompkins of Union AVS; stage, Lee Dorey, Show chairman was Sue Humphreys and co-chairman was Muriel Kaiser.

In staging its eleventh annual spring show **The First Austin (TX) AVS** chose the theme "Horoscope of Violets." Winners were: Mrs. L. F. Lidiak, best and 2nd best **horticultural specimens**, 'The King' and 'Hondo,' best pink, 'Superfection,' double, 'Blue Excitement,' single, 'Starshine,' edged blossom, 'Fanfare,' variegated foliage, 'Just Peachy,' Texas hybridized, 'D. J. Lidiak,' (hybridizer, Mrs. W. L. Meier, Sr., Austin); Utz hybridized, 'Corpus Christi,' aquamatic planter, 'White Hurricane'; an Award of Merit for old variety, 'Blue Boy,' Gold Rosette Best AVSA Collection, 'The King,' 'Fanfare,' 'Starshine,' sweepstakes; Design Division, best artistic planting and best terrarium; Mrs. S. W. Townsend, best miniature, 'Window Blue,' semiminia-



The Atlanta Show of '76 is Still Remembered

Photos by Burton

Superba
Shown by
Mrs. Charles McDaniel
Atlanta

Marta Shown by Mrs. Joseph Trost, Indianapolis.



ture, 'Lovely,' Austin hybridized; 'Beginners Luck,' (hybridizer, Mrs. R. L. Pritchett), unusual container, 'Window Blue,' and old variety. 'Chanticleer'; Mrs. Wesley Diver, best purple/blue, 'Blue Falcon'; red 'Ruffled Red' white, 'Miriam Steel,' 2nd Best AVSA Collection, 'Tina,' 'Serenity,' and 'Fanfare'; Mrs. Terrance R. Leary, two-toned blossom, 'Lavender Tempest'; Mrs. R. L. Pritchett, miniature trailer, 'Pixie Blue,' species, 'S. pendula'; Virginia Raby, novice grower, 'Serenity,' plant under 12", 'Garnet Elf'; Mrs. David B. Wildermuth, ruffled foliage, 'Garnet Elf'; Mrs. A. T. Culbertson, standard trailer 'Trail Blazer'; and Mrs. Fred C. Young, episcia, 'E. Cleopatra'; Mrs. B. A. Wilkins, best arrangement; Mrs. Wade H. Hudnall, Award of Merit, artistic planting; and Mrs. E. L. Stryk, sweepstakes rosette.

The 3rd annual AVS show of **Lower Bucks County, PA** had 265 entries. Winners were George Smith, rosette for designing and making the 20' Cruise Ship, "S. S. Saintpaulia," Mrs. Kay Lyons, show chairman, 23 ribbons and Sweepstakes; Queen of Show, 'Flamingo,' Best AVSA Collection (Gold Rosette), 'Ruffled Red,' 'Flamingo' 'Garnet Elf,' New Jersey Award (Purple Rosette), Tangiers, 'Becky,' 'Pink Viceroy,' 'Tommie Lou,' 'Gesneriads,' 'S. Cunnifolia,' 'Columna,' 'Butter Ball,' Episcia, 'Pink Brocade,' artistic planting, "Ebb Tide;" Mrs. E. Hanson, sweepstakes runner-up, 'Cameo Queen,' 'Gail,' 'Sailor's Dream,' 'Tina,' 'Trail Along,' 'Sinningia,' 'Cyndy,' 'Gesneriad,' 'S. Hirsuta'; Mrs. Natalie Capriotti, sweepstakes in artistic arrangement, 'A Shipboard Bride,' "Our Captain's Cocktail Party," "The Casino Lounge;" Blair Capriotti, 'Blue Trail,' (trailer); Betty Callahan, 'White Elf,' 'Garnet Elf,' 'Bull's Eye,' semimini, 'Wild Lemon' and terrarium, "Land Ho;" 16-year-old Miss Callahan, 11 blue ribbons, for 'Ultra Blue,' 'Delft Imperial,' 'R. Audrey,' dish garden, "Isle Of Paradise;" Mary Rose Smith, runner-up for N. J. Award, 'Mary D,' 'Flamingo,' 'Ruffled Red,' Mrs. Olive Snowden, best for hobbies, picture of violets in water colors; Joseph Wessner of St. Frances Cabrini School in Levittown, best school project poster; Mrs. Estelle McDade test plant, 'Red Sparkler' and planting, "Lighthouse;" Mrs. Fay Chadwick, cup and saucer, "Cherub."

The Bama Belles AVS held its first annual show, "Violets — Under the Big Top," with Mrs. Shirlee Sands as show chairman. Award winners were: Queen of Show, 'Blue Flair,' Opposite Queen, 'Garnet Elf,' AVSA gold rosette, 'Wild Flame,' 'Lullaby,' 'Lavender Delight,' sweepstakes (43 blue ribbons); Dixie AVS gold rosette, 'Sweet Surrender,' 'Flower Power,' 'Rodney,' best seedling, 'Shirlee's Dixie Sands,' best miniature, 'Midget Bon Bon,' best semi miniature, 'Dora Baker,' Mrs. Shirlee Sands of Opelike, AL; Junior Queen, 'Tommie Lou,' best terrarium, Dixie AVS purple rosette, 'Dixie Dandy,' 'Tommie Lou,' 'My Valentine,' runner-up to sweepstakes (20 blue ribbons), Mrs. Brenda Browning of Opelike; Opposite Junior Queen, 'Starshine,' best unusual container, 'Genessee Silhouette,' Mrs. Edna Ward of Opelike; best variegated, 'Emperor,' Mrs. Marie Attleberger of Gold Hill, AL.

Mrs. Terrance Leary, AVSA treasurer and past president of the **Lone Star AV Council**, was presented



LOVELY SHOW—"Merry May of Violets" was the theme of the 19th annual judged show of the **North Shore AVS of Long Island, NY**. In the top photo is shown the May Pole and the use of a slow speed motor to turn the May Pole proved very effective. At the foot of the May Pole were the top winning plants. In the lower photo is shown part of the large hall in which the show was held and some of the long tables on which the violets were displayed. Mrs. Alfred Tirmalis of Northport was show chairman.



with an AVSA Life Membership by the Council at its meeting in Dallas prior to her departure for her new home in St. Petersburg, FL. Mrs. Leary was one of the founders of the Council and served as its first president. At the Dallas parley it was reported that the Council has 36 member clubs with 244 individual members. Presiding at the Dallas meeting was Mrs. B. A. Forcht of Arlington, who introduced her following officers:

Vice President, Mrs. Wade H. Hudnall, Austin; secretary, Mrs. Charles Ramser, Wichita Falls; treasurer, Mrs. Ralph Artis, Houston; Newsletter Editor, Mrs. Michael Lorimor, Houston; parliamentarian, Bill Foster, Mesquite; historian, Mrs. Bill Whitehead, Waco; directors, Mrs. J. J. Wiesner, San Antonio and Mrs. Lee Roy Hejl, Bryan.

The **First Nighter AVS** of Dallas, TX held its annual show, "Violets in Wonderland," with Bill Foster as show chairman. Awards were as follows: Best of show, best double pink and best Swift Origination, 'Whisper Rose,' second AVSA Collection, 'Helene,' 'Flamingo,' 'Ann Slocumb,' best variegated foliage, 'Nancy Reagan,' best seedling, best Gesneriad, 'E. Nile Beauty,' Sweepstakes runner-up (30 blue ribbons), Susan Whitaker, First AVSA Collection, 'Delft Imperial,' 'Ann Slocumb,' 'Starshine,' sweepstakes, (39 blue ribbons), best double white, 'Grangers Eternal Snow,' best double two-tone

and multicolor, 'Lullaby,' President's Award (best plant of 'Coco'), best arrangements, 'Vacation Wonderland,' Don and Pat Monroe; best double red, 'Rhapsodie Mars,' best semi miniature, 'Beginner's Luck,' best arrangement, 'Toys in Wonderland,' Bill and Paula Foster; best Geneva edge, 'Tangier,' best coral, 'Christi Love,' best miniature, 'Winnie the Pooh,' best trailer miniature, 'Trail Along,' Mrs. J. B. Cutts; best sport, 'Elisa Frew,' Linda Hilton; best window grown, 'Lyon's Dew Kiss,' Janet Ticknor; first place aquamatic div., 'Lea,' Henry Heard; educational table award, best arrangement, 'Woodland Wonderland,' best arrangement, 'Fairytale in Wonderland,' Margie Nix; best novel container, 'Happy Harold,' Sylvia Allert; best terrarium, Mildred Williams.

The **Astro** (Houston), **Montco** (Conroe) and **Spring Branch** (Houston) AV clubs held their first show, "Texas Is — Natural Beauty," with the following winners: Best in show, 'Garnet Elf Sport,' Martha Turner; runner-up, 'Like Wow,' AVSA Collection, (Gold Rosette) 'Like Wow,' 'Shag,' 'Frankie,' Geviene Perkins; Purple Rosette, 'Nancy Reagan,' 'Garnet Elf,' 'Mark,' Verna Hudson, best of club (Astro) 'Corpus Christi,' Mary K. Munns; (Montco) 'Happy Harold,' Carol Hurley; (Spring Branch) 'Like Wow,' Geviene Perkins; best terrarium; (Spring Branch) 'Like Wow,' Geviene Perkins; best terrarium, Marilyn Scogin; Awards of Merit, Mary K. Munns, Tomball Educational, Martha Turner, 'Pink Flair,' Elaine Click 'Purple Popcorn,' best artistic planting, 'Solitude in the Piney Woods,' Carolyn Burt; best gesneriad, Episcia, 'Lady Lou,' Frances Peoples. Julia Brittain was show chairman.

The San Francisco County Fair show was ablaze with magnificent colorful flowers of all kinds and exciting plants displayed by the 20 flower societies. Visitors passing through the separate African violet room commented on the beautiful violets. Sally Smith won best in show with 'Mirriam Steel' and her 'Tiny Gypsy' won the award for best mini. 'Ivory Fashion' won the best single award for Cy Yee, who also received the novice sweepstakes award. Don and Jean Du Pertuis won the intermediate sweepstakes and Larry and Sunny Rosenfeld won the advance sweepstakes. The African violet education exhibit took first place among the 20 societies with a prize of a beautiful perpetual silver trophy and \$125. The display, arranged by Louis Ambler and Steven Bonacich, assisted by Cecile Ambler, showed the origin of African violets in a unique way. A huge cut out painting of the Usambara mountains in Africa, done by Steven's mother, served as background to the center portion of the table on which were various species with ribbons reaching to the points of elevation in the sections of the mountain of their origin — specie *schumensis* to 6-7000' elevation, *S. Velutina* and *Westdale Velvet* to 3,900', *S. Grote* and *S. Diplotrica* to 3,000', *S. Tongwensis* to 2,300' and *S. Ionantha* to 50-300', some pretty hybrids. Later developments from the species, were also displayed. Stages of propagation from pod to seedlings and growing from 1", 2", 3" to full blooming plant in 4" pot were exhibited with the varying sizes of growth "slumber rose" plants. The many printed signs and material they described were a complete education in African violet culture. Frances Mc Mahon was chairman of the show, Lourdes Kurilo, co-chairman.



YOUNGSTERS WIN—Quite a number of youngsters entered plants in the Atchafalaya AVS' 2nd annual show in Morgan City, LA. In the top photo are shown (left) Karen Neuman, 11, holding her blue ribbon winner, 'Frilled Crimson Charm' and Teresa Ozio, 13, with her blue ribbon plant, 'Swan'. Both entered three plants and won two blue ribbons and Teresa also received a blue ribbon for her artistic design. In lower photo are, left to right: L. T. Ozio, Jr., sweepstakes runner-up; Barbara Ghirardi, club president; Myrlie Thomas, winner of sweepstakes, AVSA Best Collection Award; best in show, 2nd best in show and best mini; and George Ramirez, show chairman.



"Violet Fiesta" was the theme of the second annual show of the **Suburban AV Friends** held at the San Mateo County Garden Center. Judy Mitchell, president, was show chairman with Harriette Poss in charge of staging. Winners were: Sweepstakes, (35 blue ribbons) 2nd Best AVSA Collection, 'Superfection' (Hawley), 'Icy Peach' (Lyon), 'Wine Bouquet' (Constantinov), 2nd best Western Introduction, 'Westdale Velvet' (Haseltine), 2nd runner-up to best in Show, 'Superfection,' best novel container, 'Sparkled Star'; in a feather rock, best Constantinov introduction, 'Wine Bouquet' and Best in aquamatic class 'Top Flight' (Fisher), Harriette Poss; sweepstakes runner-up (19 blue ribbons), best Western Introduction, 'Westdale Sassy' (Haseltine), largest blue ribbon plant and best variegated entry, 'Wintry Night,' Millie Blair Perpetual Trophy for her interpretation of 'Mission Bells' in the design division, Judy Mitchell;

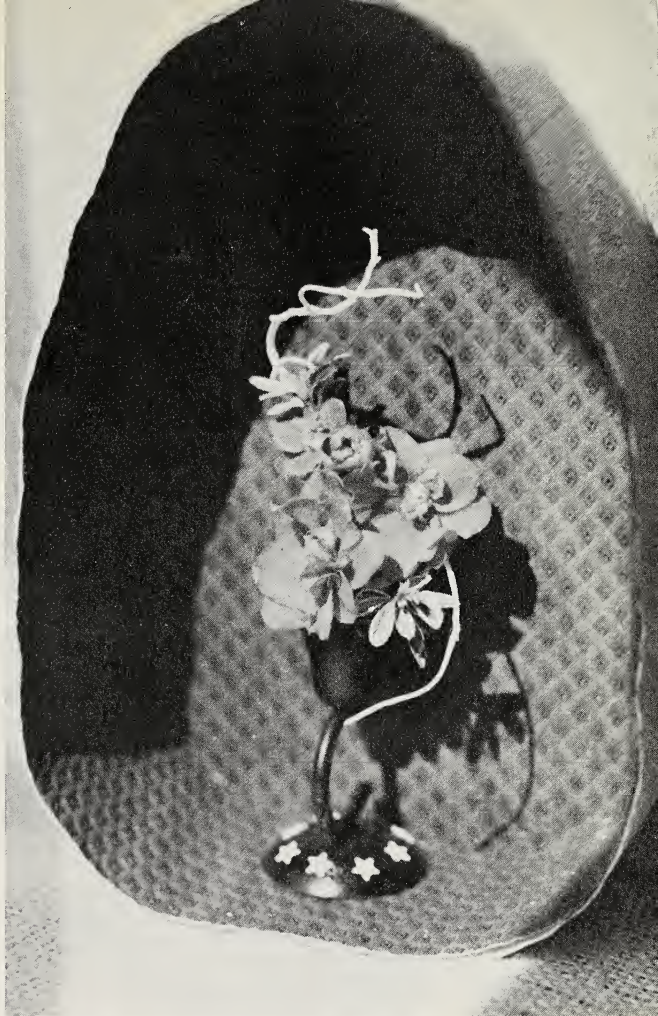


IN ARKANSAS — Mrs. F. L. Robertson (left) won Queen of Show with 'Winter Grape' and Miss Maxine Chism (right) was runner-up with 'Cimarron' at the Green Thumb AVS show in Fayetteville, AR. Miss Chism also received the sweepstakes award with 23 blue ribbons.

AVSA Best Collection award, 'After Dark' (Richter), 'Elisa Frew' (Fisher) and 'Garnet Elf' (Granger), Best in Show, 'Garnet Elf,' best novice entry, 'Pat's Pet' (Lyon), Marian Green; best semi-mini, 'Candy Trinket,' best mini, 'Midnight Mischief,' (Champton), Muriel Warwick; best arrangement, 'Gay Senorita' and best terrarium entry, Muriel Warwick; best gesneriad, 'E. Cupreato,' Georgine Freisleben.

The Lakeshore AVS of Toronto, Ontario held its annual show with the theme 'Rainbows of Violets.' The following awards were made: Best in Show, 'Becky,' runner-up, 'R. Venus,' best miniature, 'Little Delight,' AVSA Best Collection, (Gold Rosette) 'Ballet Lisa,' 'Gypsy Pink,' 'Cameo Queen,' best Granger's plant, 'Blue Belle,' best Fisher's plant, 'Barbara Jean,' best single blue & purple, 'Sylvan Blue,' best double white, 'White Lynn,' best two-tone and multicolor, 'Poodle Top,' sweepstakes for Horticulture, (51 blue ribbons) John Brownlie; best planting, terrarium depicting the theme of show; best arrangement, 'A Wish on the Rainbow,' best gesneriad, 'Wood Nymph,' best dishgarden, 'A Garden in the Rain,' best artistic planting, 'Driftwood 'n Violets,' best artistic planting, 'Follow the Yellow Brick Road,' best arrangement, 'Pot of Gold,' best arrangement, 'End of the Rainbow,' design division sweepstakes, (7 blue ribbons), Don Plevin; best double dark blue & purple, 'Frankie,' best double lavender & orchid, 'Lavender Belle'; best semi-miniature, 'Little Jim,' best plant with 'Tommie Lou' foliage, 'Tribute,' Sylvia Richardson; best double red & wine, 'Tina,' best AV trailer, 'Star Trailer,' best episcia, 'Faded Jade,' Betty Tapping; Junior Queen, 'Silver Berry,' best Columnea, 'Early Bird,' Murna Kosowan; best plant in unusual container, 'Pixie Blue,' Cathie Hammond; best entry in Novice Class, 'Ballet Lisa,' Bev. Hale; best junior entry, 'Tina,' Lisa Hammond.

The Metropolitan AVS of Peoria, IL presented awards to the following winners at its judged show: Best of show and best in horticulture, 'Sweet Mary,' 2nd best of show, 'Gene Garner,' AVSA Best Collection (Gold Rosette), 'Gene Garner,' 'Everything,' 'Blue Tempest,' best seedling, sweepstakes (24 blue ribbons, 3 red ribbons); runner-up to sweepstakes, best variegated foliage, 'Sundit Sugar Plum,' Patricia Barber; best



SCORES HIGH—Pictured here is the highest scoring entry in the design division at the Long Island AVS' annual show. The theme of the entry was "A Revolutionary Idea—1976" and was designed by Suzette Smith of Valley Stream, NY.

miniature and Tri-Ribbon, 'Irish Elf,' Emma Bessler; best geneva-edged, 'Triple Threat,' best terrarium, Doris Baumann; best arrangement, best artistic arrangement, Dorothy Forney; best miniature arrangement, 'Tiny Raindrops,' Lillian Fischer; best gesneriad, 'Dianthaflora,' Millie Van Hess; 'Marta,' June Snow; lipstick plant, Mary M. Meyer; best interpretation of show, 'Rainbow of Violets,' Betty Raush; educational table, Bess Johnson; best non-member, 'Katy,' Debra Mathison; best dish garden, Frances Nelson.

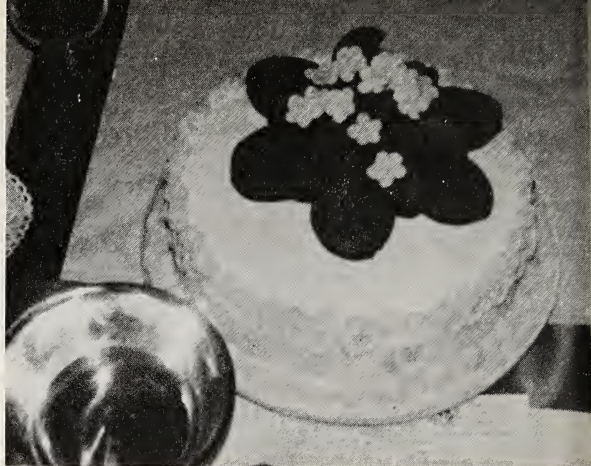
THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN AV COUNCIL of Denver, Colo., held its 16th annual show "The Enchanted Carousel," with the following winners: 'Garnet Elf,' best in show, Willie King; first runner-up, 'Fantasy Trailer,' Pat Freeman; AVSA Award (Gold Rosette), Alvah Whitledge; with 'Starburst,' 'Swanee Fling,' and 'Swanee River'; Purple Rosette, Nell Sue Tyson; best gesneriad, 'Silver Sheen' and sweepstakes runner-up, Doreen Fussell; largest plant 'Purple Joy,' best geneva and sweepstakes award, Elsie and Bill Stone.

The AVS of Springfield, PA held its 30th annual show, "And the Violets Sang" with the following winners: Best in Show, 'Frankie,' 2nd best, 'Blue Storm,' AVSA Best Collection, Springfield Green Rosette, violet sweepstakes, overall sweepstakes, Moleta Barbehenn; sweepstakes for entire show, 3rd best plant, best miniature, 'Double Take,' Emlee McLaughlin; best semiminature, 'Zanzibar,' Alice Guiney; hesneriad sweepstakes, Lillie Meyers; design sweepstakes, best arrangement, Peggy Rios.

• More than 175 persons attended the show, "Anytime Is Violet Time," and viewed the 157 violets, arrangements and artistic plantings held by the Green Thumb AVC in Fayetteville, AR. Mrs. B. E. Yandell was show chairman.



IN COLORADO — These top winners at the Rocky Mountain AVC show in Denver, CO are, (top photo), left to right: Nell Sue Tyson, AVSA 2nd Best Best Collection (Purple Rosette), Alvah Whittedge, AVSA Best Collection (Gold Rosette) and Doreen Fussell, best gesneriad; and lower photo, Elsie and Dick Stone, sweepstakes award and largest plant, 'Purple Joy.'



VIOLET FROSTING—Have you ever thought of frosting your cake with violets? All these cake decorations are made of frosting only! The cake, decorated exquisitely with a lovely violet, won for Mrs. Sherry Korby a special award for DoDe's Gardens at the first annual show held by the Brevard AVS in Melbourne, FL. The theme was "Violets for Valentine."

The Millie Blair Memorial, awarded for the first time in 1977, was won by Louis Ambler at the 17th annual show of the East Bay AVS'. His other awards were best species, 'S. Pendula'; best gesneriad foliage, 'Brocade', best artistic planting, "Ride a Pink Horse", best arrangement, "Curls and Swirls". Other winners were: Best of Show, 'Wisteria', AVSA Collection, 'Wisteria', 'Necky', 'Sailor's Dream', largest blue ribbon plant, 'Cotton Cloud'; first runner-up, 'Spring-Deb', best variegated, 'Lindy Lou', Lloyd Hoover; 2nd runner-up, best single, 'Starshine', best gesneriad blooming, 'Early Bird', Martha Gray; best amateur, 'R. Venus', Grace Smith; 1st runner-up; 'Highland Fling', 2nd runner-up, 'Valentine', Jill Malon; best novice, 'Bashful Betsy', Gus Schulz; sweepstakes, (24 blue ribbons), Northern Council Award, 'Westdale Velvet', 'Shells of Pearl', 'Burma Ruby', best miniature, 'Itty Bitty', best semiminature, 'Tanager', best unusual container, 'Sandpipes', Cecile Ambler; best trailer, 'Violet Trail', Erica Macklin; best artistic planting, "Violets on Parade", Marion Bruce.

The AVS of Pensacola, FL held its first show, "Yesterday — Today and Tomorrow" with the following winners: Best in show, 'Garnet Elf', Babs Struck; 2nd best, 'Becky', Betty Scherwin; 3rd best, 'Bubblin' Over', Ann Stichweh.

Bette Wink was chairman of the Wisconsin Council of AV Clubs' annual show at which the following awards were made: AVSA Best Collection (gold rosette), 'Nancy Reagan', 'Happy Harold', 'Peak o'Pink', advanced best of parade, 'Nancy Reagan', best mini, 'Little Delight', best semimini, 'Little Jim', sweepstakes, Janice Grande; Best of parade runner-up, 'Precious Garnet', sweepstakes runner-up, Elna Arndt; regular, best of parade, 'R. Jupiter', runner-up, 'Mrs. Greg', Marilyn Corlen; best mini, 'Tiny Dots', Virginia Oakland; best semimini, 'Fire Bugg', Laverne Kreuser; sweepstakes, Scherrin Pratt; sweepstakes runner-up, Lena Wall.

Please send COMING EVENTS to the Editor—not to the Knoxville office!

Plants Have Way of "Talking"

Can plants talk to you?
That's the question put by some growers to Edgar Weaver, Jefferson County agricultural agent of Beaumont, Texas, and here's his answer:

"Well, not in the sense when we think of all the electronic devices employed to talk to men on the moon. However, scientists can measure some plant metabolism, and its photosynthesis process and other growth factors."

Many African violet growers will talk to their plants while working with them and claim it makes them healthier. Scientists have found that some plants will respond to certain vibrations, example: that from a radio or stereo a recent study showed that some garden seeds germinated better and faster when exposed to high frequency sounds.

Weaver went on to say:
Despite our inability to talk directly to plants, green plants do have a way of communicating with us in an indirect manner. Fortune tellers have been "reading leaves" for centuries and now farmers and gardeners can do the same.

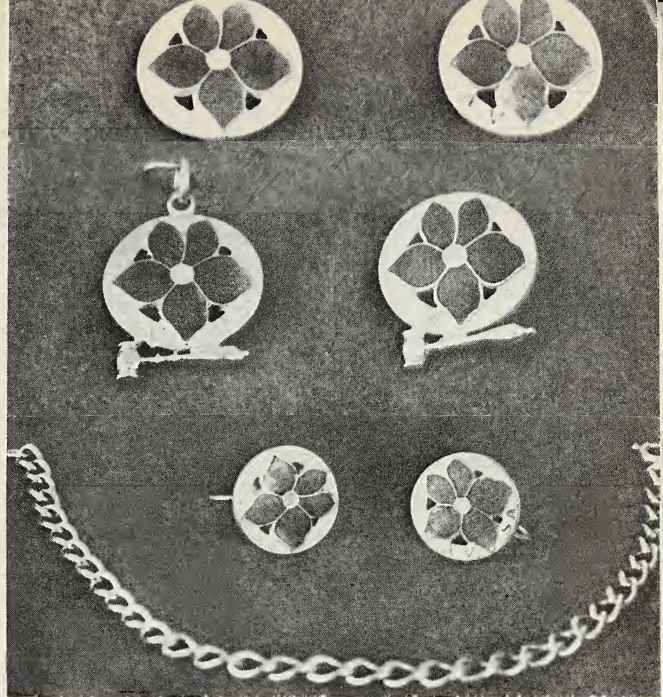
Leaves usually provide the easiest way to diagnose a chemical "sickness" in a plant. The leaves are the site of a majority of all chemical activity. There are 16 elements for plant growth and when one is missing or not present in the proper amounts, the leaves will let us know about it.

The pH reading of your soil is a good indicator for communication as to exchange capacity of a soil. What is pH as related to soil? It is a numerical measure of the acidity or hydrogen ion activity of a soil. The neutral point is pH 7.0 All pH values below 7.0 are acid and all above 7.0 are alkaline.

If a low pH is your problem the plants will let you know by turning yellow, not growing, or dying. Aluminum toxicity, caused by low pH, can be diagnosed by the appearance of oval-shaped spots between the veins that are yellow or are brown if the tissue is already dead. Root growth is also greatly retarded. If phosphorous is not available to the plant, the leaves will let you know by turning purple. And if sufficient amounts of nitrogen are not available, the leaves will turn pale green and eventually yellow.

OFFICERS' NAMES

Do NOT send newly elected officers' names to the Editor. Send them to the Affiliate Chairman, Mrs. Wayne Schroeder, who lists them in the November Magazine.



AVSA Emblems

Wear an AVSA emblem with pride that you are a part of the 27,000 member AVSA family.

Affiliates: Do you present the newly elected president with an emblem with chain and gavel attached to be worn during the term of office and passed on to the succeeding president at the installation ceremony? This is a nice tradition for an Affiliate.

STERLING SILVER OR 10K GOLD FILLED

Pin	\$ 7.00
Pin/gavel (for President)	9.00
Charm	7.00
Charm/gavel (for President)	9.00
Tie Tack	7.00
Tie Tack/gavel (for President)	9.00
Earrings/pair	13.00
Bracelet	8.00
Judge's Charm	6.00
Judge's Charm/disc	9.00
Judge's Guard Pin	5.00
Gavel/chain	5.00

14K GOLD

Pin	26.00
Pin/gavel (for President)	36.00
Charm	26.00
Charm/gavel (for President)	36.00
Earrings/pair	41.00
Gavel/chain	14.00
Life Member Pin	31.00
Life Member Tie Tack	31.00

Above prices are effective January 1, 1978. Prices are subject to change should our cost, when reordering be increased.



COMING EVENTS

JAN. 21 — LOUISIANA: Top Choice AVS of Shreveport, to sponsor a seminar and workshop in African violet culture, "Beauty Is . . . The African Violet", at Barnwell Art & Garden Center on the Riverfront. 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Public invited. No charge. Mrs. O. P. Wilson, chairman.

FEB. 4-5 — MISSOURI: The Greater Kansas City (MO) AVS' annual show, "Gallery of Violets", to be held in Garden Center Building, Loose Park, Kansas City, MO. Myra Bacharach, chairman.

FEB. 4-5 — KANSAS: Wichita AV Study Club's 16th annual show/sale "Love Is . . .", in Crystal Room at Holiday Inn East, 7335 East Hiway 54, Wichita. Feb. 4, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Feb. 5, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Mrs. Joe Cox, show chairman.

FEB. 9-11 — FLORIDA: Upper Pinellas AVS' 19th annual show, "Love of Violets" at Sunshine Mall, Clearwater. Feb. 9, 1-9 p.m.; Feb. 10, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Feb. 11, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Mrs. Jack Williams, show chairman; Mrs. William Zane, president.

FEB. 24-25—LOUISIANA: The New Orleans AVS' 4th annual spring show, "Clowning Around With Violets", at Lakeside Shopping Center, Center Mall. Public invited. No admission. Feb. 24, 1-9 p.m.; Feb. 25, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For further details contact Jean LeCote, 488-2380.

FEB. 25 — TEXAS: The Alamo AVS of San Antonio to present 2nd judged show/plant sale, "Texas on Parade", at Wonderland Shopping Center. Chairman, Mrs. B. F. Fritsch; cochairman, Mrs. Betty Cook; educational exhibit, Mrs. R. H. Ware; publicity, Mrs. Ann Knoch and Mrs. R. W. Rector; president, Mrs. J. R. Pittman.

FEB. 25-26 — FLORIDA: Tampa AVS' 3rd annual judged show, "Violet Invasion", at Seminole Garden Center, 5800 Central Avenue, Tampa.

FEB. 25-26 — MISSOURI: Metropolitan St. Louis AVS' 24th annual show, "Through the Window" at the Floral Display House, Missouri Botanic Garden, 2101 Tower Grove Avenue, St. Louis. Public admission. Feb. 25, 2-5 p.m.; Feb. 26, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

MAR. 1-3 — ALABAMA: The AV Study Club to hold 13th annual show at the Botanical Garden Center in Birmingham. Show chairman, Mrs. F. H. Collins, Mrs. Howard R. West, publicity chairman.

MAR. 3-4 — LOUISIANA: Top Choice AVS of Shreveport to hold annual judged show/sale, "Around the World — With Violets", at Pierremont Mall, in Uptown Shopping Center, 4801 Line Avenue. Mar. 3, 2-8 p.m.; Mar. 4, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Mrs. Warren Rosenbaum, show chairman, 1875 Shady Lane; Mrs. W. M. Plaster, president, 8304 Suffolk Drive. Public invited. No admission.

MAR. 4-5 — TEXAS: Corpus Christi AVS' annual show "Eyes of Texas Are on Violets" at Corpus Christi Council of Garden Clubs center, 5325 Greely. Mrs. Helen Cooley, president; Mrs. Renia Baker, chairman; Mrs. Susan Bair, cochairman.

MAR. 4-5 — LOUISIANA: Alexandria AVS' 8th annual show,

WHY NOT HAVE AN AVSA MEMBERSHIP TABLE IN YOUR SHOW?



"Holidays With Violets", at Ramada Inn, 2211 MacArthur Drive. Mary McKay, show chairman; Mrs. Marty McKay, vice chairman; Mrs. W. H. Rollins, president. Mar. 4, 2:30-5 p.m.; Mar. 5, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

MAR. 4-5 — FLORIDA: Central Florida AVS' 7th annual show, "Fantasy Characters and Violets", at Florida Gas Co., 1560 Orlando Avenue, Winter Park. Mar. 4, 1-5 p.m.; Mar. 5, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Show chairman, Miss Mary K. Johnson; president, Mrs. Joseph E. Shea.

MAR. 10-11—TEXAS: Brazos Valley AVC's judged show/plant sale at Manor East Mall in Bryan, TX, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

MAR. 11-12—FLORIDA: Haines City AVS' annual judged show/plant sale, "Violet Pow-Wow" at Haines City Civic Center, Haines City, FL. Admission free. Mrs. Warren B. Patain, Sr., show chairman, 324-5737.

MAR. 10-11 — LOUISIANA: The First New Orleans AVS to present annual spring show and Country Store plant sale, "Jazz It Up With Violets" at Oakwood Shopping Center in Gretna, LA. Mar. 10, 5-9 p.m.; Mar. 11, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

MAR. 11-12 — TEXAS: The Houston Gesneriad Society to hold 2nd annual show/plant sale, "South of the Border", at Hermann Park Garden Center. Mar. 11, 3-6 p.m.; Mar. 12, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. No admission charge. Chairman, Mrs. Don Roose; cochairman, Mrs. Robert Riquelmy.

MAR. 17-18 — CALIFORNIA: Bakersfield AVS' annual show, "Violets and Oldtime Country Music", at Italian Heritage Hall, 4415 Wilson Road, Bakersfield. Mar. 17, 4-8 p.m.; Mar. 18, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Show chairman, Mrs. Myrita Henry. Open to public. No admission.

MAR. 18-19 — LOUISIANA: Shreveport AVS' 9th annual show, "Her Majesty—the Violet", at Barnwell Memorial Garden Center. 1-5 p.m. Jon D. Morris, publicity chairman.

MAR. 18-19 — RHODE ISLAND: The Rhode Island AVS' annual show, "Violets For My Love", to be staged at the Woodridge Parish Hall, 20 Jackson Road, Cranston, RI. Vincent Ballirano, show chairman.

MAR. 23-25 — OHIO: Columbus AVS' 29th annual show/sale, "A Spectrum of African Violets", at Union Company Downtown store. Admission free. Plants and leaves sold during show. Show plants sold Mar. 25. Mar. 23, 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m.; Mar. 24, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Mar. 25, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Show chairman, Mrs. Sharon Bruce, 430 Crandall Dr., Worthington, 43025; cochairman, Mrs. Thelma Miller, 1771 Kermit, Columbus, 43207. Cultural information available from members.

MAR. 25 — TEXAS: The ABC's of African Violets of Brownwood to hold spring show/sale, "The Year of Mother Goose", at First United Methodist Fellowship Hall. 1-5 p.m., Public invited. Admission free. Show chairman, Mrs. Kathy Blanton.

MAR. 29-APRIL 1 — ALABAMA: Dixie Convention to be held in Montgomery with Elizabeth Fuller, 3412 South Perry Street, 36105 as convention chairman.

APRIL 15-16 — DELAWARE: Delaware AVS' 12th annual

show/plant sale, "Violets For All Seasons", scheduled at Pomeroy's Department Store, Concord Mall, Wilmington, DE. Admission free. African violets and geseradias to be sold. April 14, 3-9 p.m.; April 15, 10 a.m.-9:30 p.m.; April 16, 12 noon-4:30 p.m.

APRIL 21-23 — TENNESSEE: Bluff City AVC's show/plant sale, "Showboat of Violets" at Raleigh Springs Mall. Mrs. W. A. Fowler, show chairman. Rita Cooper, president. April 22, Judges' School taught by Ruby Eichelberger.

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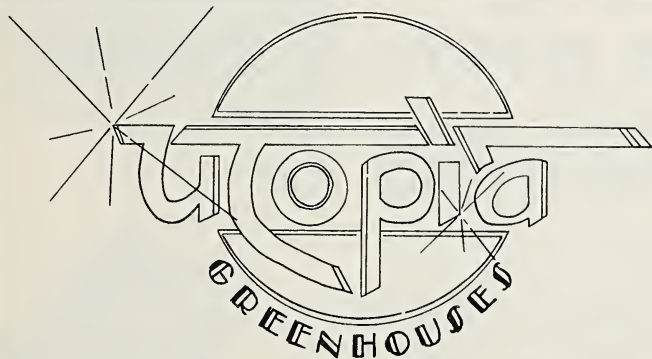


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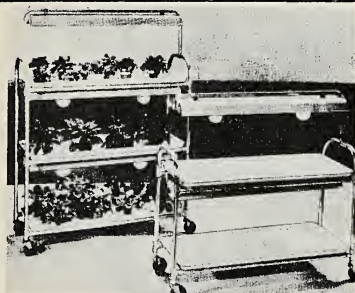
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2 qts. Hardwood Charcoal #10 fine, #6 medium	1.75
2 qts. #3 Vermiculite fine grind .50¢	4 qts. .80
3 lb. bag Carbamate Fermate, Ferbam	6.40
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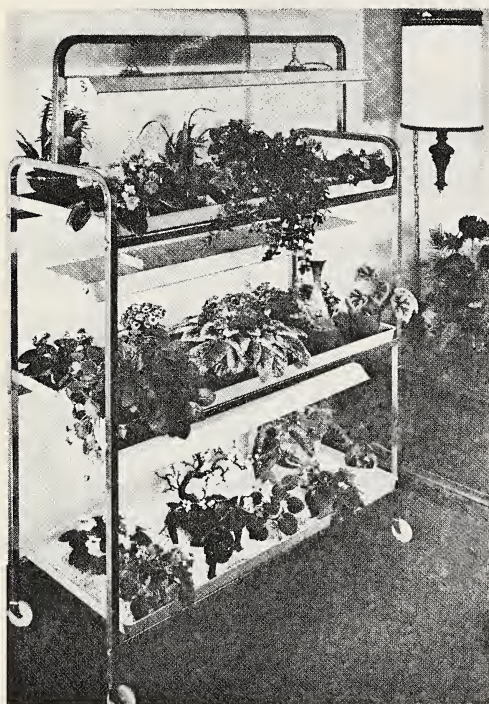
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SARA LYNN (UTZ) brilliant red dbl stars edged in white, many blooms per stem, tailored rosette forming foliage.
SCARLET RAINBOW (AV) big semi dbl shaded tutone, very deep ruby red top petals, dark glossy foliage.
SWEET VIOLET (SW) lovely light violet-lavender dbl blooms in profusion, best 1977 Swift's, wavy foliage show plant.
WHITE HURRICANE (UTZ) large dbl white blooms in clusters, dark green with red reverse which shows on troughed foliage, spectacular.

VARIEGATED FOLIAGE VARIETIES

ARABESQUE (IF) huge semi dbl stars of aster violet splashed with deep purple, edged in lime green T/L foliage.
AMETHYST SPARKS (EC) large white striped with fuchsia stars, very striking, light ruffled foliage.
KAREN (IF) semi dbl large stars blue with red overlay, white edge T/L notched edge foliage.

TRAILERS, MINIATURES, SEMIMINIATURES

CORAL TRAIL (LL) a first, large coral pink full dbl stars, semi trailing standard size.
MOODY BLUES (LL) another first - white with blue markings dbl stars, semi trailing standard size - pretty basket.
RAINBOW TRAIL (IF) fantasy stars of pale silver lavender, splashed with bright blue, standard trailer.
TRAILS DELIGHT (LL) full pink, cream and green variegated foliage trailer, light fuchsia stars cover plant.
CUPIE DOLL (AV) big pansy face shaded mauve with lavender and edged in white blooms held high above flat girl foliage semi min.
SMALL WORLD (LL) dbl white marked with blue purple, small tailored miniature foliage.
TIPPY (LL) dbl blue purple blooms tipped with white dots, floriferous small tailored foliage.
MISTY TRINKET (EC) misty pink dbl version of Icicle Trinket, small notched foliage edged in cream

This offer is for starter plants at \$2.50 each, or rooted clumps at \$3.50 each, or fresh cut leaves at \$1.25 each leaf. Please order fresh cut leaves separately. MINIMUM order 3 plants or rooted clumps, or 10 fresh cut leaves. Please give 2nd choice, otherwise we will substitute our choice, only if necessary to expedite shipment.

Include handling charge as follows: east of the Mississippi 15% of amount of order or \$2.00 whichever is larger — west of the Mississippi 20% of amount of order or \$3.00 whichever is larger. All orders shipped by air or best and fastest method. Shipping starts as soon as weather permits, approximately May 1, 1978. For delivery by UPS please show your street address.

Complete list of hundreds of cultivars, new, old and unusual is also available. Please send business size envelope, stamped and addressed for prompt receipt.

Annalee Violetry
 29-50 214th Place Bayside, N.Y. 11360
 (212) 224-3376

Kitty's Violets

Fresh cut A.V. leaves - 25¢ for List
Volkmann supplies - Tube Craft Stands
Visitors Welcome

406 Pearl St.

Jasper, Texas 75951

(713) 384-8397

Violets At The Ernst's

221 S.E. 70th St.

Gainesville, FL 32601

(near Newnans Lake - Phone 376-8655)

LEAVES AND PLANTS

Please Send 25¢ for list.

Suburb of Chattanooga

Violet Buds & Blossoms

841 Valley Wood Cir. N.

Hixon, TN 37343

Miniatures, Standards, Variegates & Supplies

Hours: Mon. - Fri. 12:30 - 5 p.m.

other times by appointment

Listing 25¢, no minimums

(615) 842-4254

JACKSONS HOUSE OF VIOLETS

New and older varieties

Distributors for FREDETTE ORIGINALS

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Please send 25¢ for List

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'78 CATALOG — 25¢



- Hundreds of new varieties
- Fredette Originals
- Complete line of accessories
- Same old reliable quality

Peg Mitchell's VIOLET FARM

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AFRICAN VIOLET SEEDS

Mixture from hundreds of crosses
in all colors and shapes.

\$3.00 a packet

Constance R. Koch

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NEW VARIETIES BY:

Violet Fun

5735 Roswell Rd., N.E.

Suite E-4

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Send for Free list.

"Choice varieties from leading hybridizers. Fresh cut African violet leaves and some small plants at reasonable prices. Send 25¢ for spring list and "Early Bird Specials." Open daily 10-5 except Sundays and Holidays. Visitors welcome all year."

Leix's Village Violetry

Mrs. W. A. Leix

4785 W. Center St.

Millington, MI. 48746

P. O. Box 238

Phone: (517) 871-2505

African Violets — 1978

Featuring varieties from Ronn Nadeau;

Jimmy Carter

Jack o'Hearts

Rosalyn Carter

One Fourteen

Pink Mornstar

Pure Water

Starter plants: \$2.50 ea. Air Mail ppd.,
Min. - 3. Fresh cut leaves: 75¢ ea. Air
Mail ppd., Min. - 10. 1978 Listing: 25¢,
free with order. Shipping April, May,
June; and September, October.

MRS. LOU ARTA CORBIN

12040 Southridge Dr.

Little Rock, AR 72212

Little Violet House

Didn't get all your new plants before Nov. 1?
Leaves from newest varieties of Maas,
Granger, Lyon & Champion rooted for you &
clumps shipped in Spring. Min. 3 - \$2.35 ppd.

Also complete line of supplies incl. our own
soil mix with systemic, insecticides, etc. Tried
and proven. Also pots, tubs, aquamatic
planters, vermiculite, perlite, stakes & fer-
tilizers.

Newest varieties of Nadeau, Maas, Fritz,
Reed, etc. - 25¢.

Stamp for list

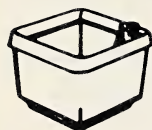
Marsha Sanders

Rt. 2, Box 219

Hephzibah, GA

Phone: 404/592-4079

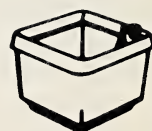
The House of Violets



Charlyne and Ralph Reed
936-940 Garland Street, SW

Camden, Arkansas 71701

Phone (501) 836-3016



SWIFT "MOIST-RITE" PLANTER (Circle color desired) GREEN WHITE BLACK

Name Single Planter.....\$ 2.50

Carton of 6..... 13.00

Address Carton of 12..... 23.00

Carton of 24..... 39.00

City State Zip

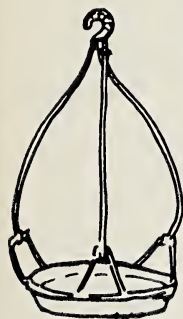
DEPT AQP-3

(Price includes postage and handling)

Plastic Flower Pots

ALL FIRST QUALITY

	10	20	50	100	500	TYPE	Color
1 3/4"	.40	.70	1.60	3.00	13.00	Round only	White, Only
2 1/4"	.50	.85	2.00	3.50	15.00	Round or Square	White, Green
2 1/2"	.70	1.00	2.25	4.25	20.00	Round or Square	White, Green
3 "	.85	1.50	3.25	6.25	30.00	Round or Square	White, Green
3 1/2"	1.00	1.80	4.00	7.50	35.00	Round Tub or Square	White, Green
4 "	1.20	2.20	4.75	9.00	40.00	Round Tub, Square, Standard	White, Green
4 1/2"	1.50	2.80	6.00	11.50	55.00	Round Tub or Square	White, Green
5 "	1.80	3.40	7.50	13.50	62.50	Round Tub or Standard	White, Green
6 "	2.20	4.00	10.00	18.50	85.00	Round Tub or Standard	White, Green
6 1/2"	2.50	4.50	11.00	20.00	90.00	Round Tub	White, Green
7 "	4.50	8.50	20.00	36.00	170.00	Round Standard	White, Green
8 "	4.75	9.00	21.00	38.00	180.00	Round Standard	White, Green



PLASTIC HANGER & SAUCER

SIZE	COLOR	10	20	50	100
6 1/2"	Green White	3.50	6.50	15.50	28.00

Makes an instant hanging basket out of any pot up to 6 1/2"

PETERS FERTILIZERS

12-36-14	Violet Special	12-oz.	\$2.00
5-50-17	Variegated Special	12-oz.	2.00
20-20-20	General Purpose	16-oz.	2.00
10-30-20	Blossom Booster-Orchids	16-oz.	2.00
18-18-18	General Purpose	16-oz.	2.00
15-30-15	House Plant Special	16-oz.	2.00

PLASTIC FLOWER POT SAUCERS

Size	Color	10	20	50	100
3"	White	1.10	2.00	4.50	8.25
4"	White	1.50	2.60	6.00	11.00
5"	White	1.70	3.00	7.00	13.00

PLASTIC HANGING BASKETS

Size	Color	1	5	10
5 1/2"	White or Green	.75	3.25	6.00
6 1/2"	White or Green	1.00	4.50	8.50
8 "	White or Green	1.25	6.00	11.00
10 "	White, Green or Yellow	1.75	8.00	15.00

All with Saucers & Hangers

Violet House Potting Soil	2 gal.	1.00
Perlite	1 gal.	50*
Sphagnum Peat Moss	1 gal.	50*
Vermiculite	1 gal.	50*
Charcoal	12-oz.	89*
Dolomite Lime	16-oz.	50*
Package 4" Plastic Marking Labels	(100)	1.50

WICK WATER

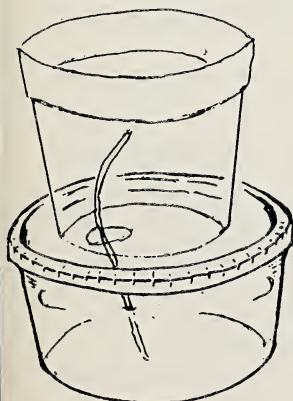
with

PLASTIC WATER RESERVOIRS (snap-on-lids)

Lids are recessed to hold pots.
Last 2 - 5 weeks.

16-oz.	32-oz.
20 for 4.25	20 for 7.75
50 for 9.25	50 for 17.75
100 for 16.50	100 for 33.00
500 for 70.00	500 for 110.00

(Wicks not included)



The Violet House

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GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32601

phone AC 904 377-8465

Please use our new P. O. Box #1274

MINIMUM ORDER \$7.50

Fla. residents add 4% sales tax.

Shipping charge 48 states, \$2.00; Canada, Alaska
& Hawaii, \$5.00; all others actual cost.

WE SHIP U P S WHERE POSSIBLE.

Tomara African Violets

17 new Fredette Originals for 1978—Pretty Polly, Ming Rose, Icy Blue, etc. Also new varieties from other hybridizers.

We are now distributors of Floracart and other Tube Craft products, send SASE for prices.

Our variety list will be available about March 1st (send 25¢).

Mrs. R. D. Tompkin

1 mi. N. Fayette on Hwys. 5 & 240

Ph. 816/248-3232

Visitors Welcome 9-6, Sunday by Appointment

AFRICAN VIOLETS including many miniatures. EPISCIA'S - MINIATURE SINNINGIAS. ALLEGRO, 4 oz. \$3.50 ppd.

Send stamped, addressed long envelope for listing.

SAN FRANCISCO PLANT CO

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Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

Sheri's Greenhouse

African Violets

Featuring Mini's

List 25¢

Sheri DeLoach

428 Lindenwood Ln.

817-776-1577

Hewitt, Tx 76643

PLASTIC POTS AND HANGING BASKETS

	20	50	100	250
2" x 2" Square*	.65	1.55	2.85	6.90
2 3/4" x 2 3/4" Square*	.75	1.75	3.20	7.70
4 1/4" x 3 3/4" Square	2.10	4.65	8.60	20.50
3 3/4" x 2 3/4" Violet Tub				
with saucer	4.75	11.45	21.75	50.00
4" x 3" Violet Tub	1.80	4.30	8.00	19.25
5" x 3 3/4" Violet Tub	3.40	7.45	13.25	32.00

Hanging Baskets (with hanger & Saucer)

5 1/2"—5/3.15 6 1/2"—5/4.20 8"—5/5.75 10"—5/7.50

*Utility color only, 3 3/4" VT White only, all others your choice white or green. Please include 10% for shipping, orders over \$20.00 in 48 states postpaid. Min. order \$5.00. Fl. res. 4% Tax. List of other sizes for stamp.

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GRANGER

SWIFT

REED

Your one stop violet shop
Floracarts & all supplies

Shipping begins in Spring — Plants & Supplies

S.A.S.E. for list

Champion Variegates for 1978

OPAL SURPRISE — Rosy orchid double with blue cast. Lovely unusual shade. Rounded dark foliage variegates in pink.

BLUE SUEDE — Medium blue double. Tailored foliage is serrated and variegated in tan shades. Good for show.

RING A DING — Wavy pink double edged in rings of darker pink. Strong quilted rippled foliage with light green variegation.

PURPLE POPPY — Beautiful broad ruffled light green foliage. Double ruffled purple blossoms, sometimes with a dash of white.

PINXTER — Nice baby pink double with light edges. Handsome tailored foliage variegated in pink.

PINK POPPY — Carnation ruffled double with deep pink blossoms and lots of them. Foliage is shiny and ruffled but stays flat. Variegation is pink.

TRINKET MAGIC — Semiminiature foliage is wavy, shaded in light green and adorable. Medium blue single with wavy white edge.

NOTICE OF CHANGE IN SHIPPING — We will not mail or have a list this year. The above varieties will be available by mail from

BAKER'S AFRICAN VIOLETS

2433 Kingscliff Drive

Atlanta, Georgia 30345

Please contact them for a list and other mailing information. This change will give us more time and space for hybridizing.

BEGINNING MARCH 1 these new varieties will be available at the house as usual. VISITORS ARE WELCOME to our basement shop. Many other variegates and green varieties are available. An appointment is wise. Located 15 minutes north of Thruway Exit 36 at Syracuse. Drive north to Cicero on Rt 81, west on Rt 31 to Clay, right on Van Hoesen Road. Phone 315-699-7317

CHAMPION'S AFRICAN VIOLETS

8848 Van Hoesen Road

Clay, New York 13041

BAKER'S

**F
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Violets with

Pizzazz!

VIOLETS

With this new season, spring of '78, we are introducing our own **BAKER HYBRIDS**. Our hybridizing program has attempted to combine splashy flowers with sturdy stems yielding plants that are a delight to grow and behold.

ABRACADABRA - Large, semi-dbl. lilac star flecked and splashed with purple. Med. green, slightly spooned foliage. Covers itself with flowers borne on strong erect stems.

ATLAS - Large lavender semi-dbl. star with variable purple coloration. Strong stems, vigorous grower.

BLUE LUSTER - White semi-dbl. with light blue edge or light blue mottling. Med. green, slightly serrated leaf. Very floriferous.

BURNING EMBER - Huge, very full ruffled tawny red dbl. with cherry tips. Plain, dark foliage. Striking!

COURAGEOUS - Huge, deep moorish blue star with thin white edge. Flowers approach 3" across on exhibition pots. Dark, quilted foliage.

CRAZY QUILT - 2½" rosy pink semi-dbl. star heavily flecked with purple. Medium green slick foliage.

DEVIL - 2½" rosy red semi-dbl. with cherry center or cherry tips. An abundance of flowers. Will win shows. Tailored medium green fol.

DIPPITY DOO - Large white ruffled dbl. tinged and mottled with pink, some green edging. Ruffled moss green foliage. Pretty!

FARRAH - Golden, glowing large peach star, sometimes with darker peach tips. Med. green tailored foliage.

FIESTA - Very large, deepest red semi-dbl. star. Slightly ovate, dark fol. As dark as "Tina", but much larger flower.

FLORAL CORAL - Large, very full fluffy salmon coral double. Slick med. green fol.

HOT LIPS - Ruffled white dbl. with vivid red edge. Bright green, notched fol. Coloration and growth habit superior to "Joyful."

LUCILLE - Tawny red semi-dbl. unlike any red seen before. Tailored dark fol., red underbacking. Free-flowering.

OUTBURST - Nicely ruffled raspberry star with darker lines and streaks from the center. Wavy dark green fol. Unusual.

PEPPERMINT CANDY - Frilly white semi-dbl. streaked and splashed with dark red. Medium green ruffled foliage.

PETIT PEACH - Light peach star with darker lines from center. Tiny dark tailored foliage. Symmetrical grower.

SAUCY - Large, very frilly hot pink dbl., lightly haloed in green. Dark, wavy foliage. Floriferous.

***TEENY WEENY** - Rosy lavender bell with purple flecking and splashes. Tiny dark green fol. Floriferous, does not sucker. Nice growth habit.

WINKLE - Frilly white semi-dbl. with blue edge. Wavy, moss green foliage. Many flowers per stem.

ZANY - Light blue star flecked and splashed with purple. Medium green, slightly spooned fol. Easy to grow.

Baker's also offers the very finest in variegated foliage plants. We are now the exclusive distributor of the **PARSON'S** variegated and the **JOYFUL** non-variegated series from Reverend Blades.

PARSON VARIEGATED VIOLETS

PARSON'S ANGEL - Medium pink semi-dbl. on Tommie Lou tailored fol. Plant covers itself with flowers.

PARSON'S CHARM - Lavender semi-dbl. with orchid tips. Tailored Tommie Lou fol. Vigorous plant with strong stems.

PARSON'S DOLLBABY - Medium blue semi-dbl. star. Tailored Tommie Lou fol. Semi-miniature.

PARSON'S GLADNESS - Wavy, light pink semi-dbl. Wavy, Tommie Lou foliage. Flowers form a bouquet held erect on strong stems.

PARSON'S INSPIRATION - Frilly white semi-dbl. with orchid edge. Wavy, Tommie Lou foliage.

PARSON'S ORCHID - Two-toned orchid semi-dbl. Tailored Tommie Lou foliage. Very strong stems.

JOYFUL INNOCENCE - Snowy white semi-dbl. star borne in profusion above bright green, tailored fol.

We are also the exclusive **mail-order** distributor for **MRS. CHAMPION'S** variegated violets. She will continue to sell directly only from her basement shop.

CHAMPION VARIEGATED VIOLETS

BLUE SUEDE - Huge medium blue semi-dbl. Dark, serrated fol. which variegates in shades of tan and cream.

OPAL SURPRISE - Large dbl. fuchsia with blue cast. Rounded, dark fol. variegates pink and tan.

PINK POPPY - Heavily frilled, deep pink semi-dbl. Dark, holly foliage which variegates pink and tan.

PINXTER - Light pink dbl. with darker center and white edge. Tailored pinkish fol.

PURPLE POPPY - Very frilly, dark as midnight purple dbl., sometimes with a touch of white. Ruffled creamy fol.

RING A DING - Light pink, slightly wavy dbl. with darker outer rings. Quilted, slightly wavy tan and green fol.

***TRINKET MAGIC** - Dark blue cupped single with good white edge. Shiny, wavy foliage in shades of yellow and green.

We are also offering the '78 introductions from **LYNDON LYON, GRANGER GARDENS, MAX MAAS, HOWARD UTZ** and the **TENNESSEE SERIES**. Send 25¢ for our complete descriptive list of 300 sensational varieties.

Plants on this page are priced at \$2.50 ea. plus 50¢ per plant for **FIRST CLASS** postage and handling. Add 75¢ per pot for orders less than four plants. Ga. customers please add 4% sales tax. Shipping begins May 1. Orders shipped in order of receipt; make check or money order payable to Baker's African Violets. Money orders acknowledged by post card; canceled check is your receipt unless acknowledgement specifically requested.

Box 1106 **Baker's African Violets** Tucker, GA 30084

CHOOSE BOOKS IN '78 TO BRING KNOWLEDGE AND PRODUCE GOOD GROWING RESULTS

GROWING OUR WAY.

"OUR AFRICAN VIOLET HERITAGE" by Anne Tinari . . . read about the heritage of your favorite plant, its growth and history of many cultivars originated in the last 30 years. Most often asked questions and answers to help you with your violet problems. An Ideal Christmas Gift for any violet enthusiast, autographed on request . . . \$3.95 ppd.



Helen Van Pelt Wilson's AFRICAN VIOLET BOOK

Now in Paperback. New information on how to have blooms at windows or under lights. Culture of miniatures, scoring of show plants, other gesneriads, charts of troubles and cures. 29 photographs in color, 59 in black and white. 37 pages of line drawings. \$5.95 ppd.



THE MIRACLE HOUSEPLANTS

by Virginie F. and George A. Elbert

A new book devoted exclusively to the gesneriad family, including the African violet, episcia, aeschynanthus, sinningia and dozens of other gesneriads. A valuable textbook on culture and propagation. Over 100 illustrations in color and black and white. \$6.95 postpaid



"HOW TO GROW AFRICAN VIOLETS"

A new revised Sunset Book, author Jack Kramer. Up to date growing techniques described and illustrated. Valuable information on propagating, grooming and showing African Violets. \$3.29 postpaid.



AFRICAN VIOLET NOTE PAPER—with envelopes, 12 beautiful violets printed in full color. All different. \$1.50 a box with order ppd. Separately, please add 25¢ postage.



Violet Jar
Saucer



Violet Jar

CERAMIC AFRICAN VIOLET PLANT JAR

In seven sparkling colors! To delight any Violet enthusiast. Solid glossy colors in violet, pink, blue, yellow, white, green, gray and black. (State second choice.) No 1 Jar—Handmade and hand painted in glossy ceramic with suitable space for four of your favorite plants. Proper drainage hole in bottom. Stands 5½" high and is approximately 5¼" in circumference. Please state type jar and color wanted. No. 1 or No. 2, \$3.75 each, ppd. SPECIAL: 2 jars for \$6.95 postpaid. VIOLET JAR SAUCER—Especially designed to set the above jars on, approximately ½" deep to hold excess water. Comes in same colors to match above jar. Please specify color. \$1.69 postpaid.

PETERS FERTILIZER—A soluble fertilizer especially for African Violets in two new formulas:

African Violet Special: 12-36-14, 8 oz. carton \$2.25 postpaid

Variegated Violet Special: 5-50-17, 8 oz. carton \$2.50 postpaid.

Dept. AV
Commercial Member
AVS of America, Inc.



Box 190, 2325 Valley Road
Huntingdon Valley, Pa. 19006

New SPOT-O-SUN Grow-Lite Fixture

Simulated sunshine is provided by the special wide spectrum grow lamp included in this decorative planter. Molded from practically indestructible lexan in beautiful avocado green. Height 15", Width 9", Depth 11½", Bowl Dia. 9".

\$19.95 postpaid

(This unit will not operate from a timer.)



RIPE-N-GROW SUN-LITE

Large 16" diameter, 3¼" deep bowl with durable avocado green luxurious long-life finish. Reflector dome diameter is 17" and is 19" in height. Complete with Sylvania 22 watt Wide-Spectrum fluorescent circine tube. Can hold as many as one dozen 2¼" pots. Most attractive and beautiful for growing African violet plants. This unit will operate from a timer. \$29.95 ppd.



GRO-LUX LAMP FIXTURE

—Handsome durable, all metal fluorescent table lamp fixture, featuring gold top with black wrought iron legs. Complete with 2-20 watt gro-lux tubes, the new energy source for stimulating plant growth, (tray not included). Approximate size 24" high, 24" long and 13½" deep. May be used with a timer. \$29.95 ppd.



AUTOMATIC TIMER—For use with fluorescent lights that have "rapid start" ballast. Capacity 875 watts. Can be set to go on or off automatically. \$9.95



FLORA CART—Indoor Garden on Wheels

Ideal for growing African violets. Rugged lifetime construction of aluminum tubing. Beautiful molded fiberglass trays 19"x49"x1½", lightweight, strong and easy to clean. Shipped "knocked down" with complete instructions for assembly. May be operated with automatic timer. (Accommodates 48" tubes.)

Model BA—3 tray stand which includes three double light fixtures (no tubes are included), 3 trays, comes complete with casters for easy moving. Overall size: 68" high x 53" long x 19" wide. \$195.55 postpaid.

Model CA—2 tray stand which includes two double light fixtures (no tubes are included), 2 trays comes complete with casters for easy moving. Overall size: 48" high x 53" long x 19" wide. \$142.95 postpaid.

California and New York City customers only, please add \$5.00 postage.

PLASTIC TENTS

For Model CA—2 Tray—\$10.95 with FloraCart order, separately please add \$1.00.

For Model BA—3 Tray—\$12.95 with FloraCart order, separately please add \$1.00.

Send 25¢ for color catalog listing over 100 plant descriptions, lighting equipment, accessories, books and "Tinarius".

Prices subject to change.

SB
413
A4A258
Bot.

African Violet

MAGAZINE

Volume 31

Number 2

March, 1978



Strictly Business — Your Business

INFORMATION FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH YOUR SOCIETY TO INSURE GOOD SERVICE
IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE ITEM SEND EACH ITEM TO THE CORRECT PERSON
ALWAYS GIVE YOUR NAME AND COMPLETE ADDRESS

AVSA Membership: Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewal membership to AVSA Treasurer, AVSA office. Life - \$100; Commercial - \$15; Individual - \$6.

AFFILIATES: Chapter - \$6; Council, State or Region - \$15. Please fill in the form sent to you from the AVSA Knoxville office and return it with your check for renewal of affiliation, to AVSA, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, TN 37901.

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION: Send ideas, offers to help, request for assistance to Mrs. Harold Rienhardt, 4463 W. Seneca Tok., Syracuse, NY 13215

AVSA OFFICE: Mrs. Clarice Bell, Office Manager, Box 1326, Knoxville, TN 37901

AVSA EMBLEMS: See Jan. issue - Member, Past President, Life Member pins. Own and wear them with pride. Order from AVSA office.

AFFILIATES: For information on show awards, how to organize a chapter, or membership questions, write Mrs. Wayne W. Schroeder, 1739 N. 74th Ct., Elmwood Park, IL 60635.

BEST VARIETIES - HONOR ROLL COMPILER: Mrs. Leon Fiedler, Rt. 1, Prescott, WI 54021

BOOSTER FUND: Send contributions to Mrs. W. M. Plaster, 8304 Suffolk Dr., Shreveport, LA 71106

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND: Send contributions, club or individual, to Mrs. L. F. Lidiak, 4503 Sinclair Ave., Austin, TX 78756

COMMERCIAL

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES: Albert Buell, Box 218, Eastford, CT 06242

COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Jimmy Watson, 1361 Madison Ave., Apt. 2-AA, New York, NY 10028

CONVENTION:

AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Mrs. R. A. Chase, 482 Rutherford Ave., Redwood City, CA 94061 by Sept. 1.

PROGRAM: Mar. issue. Send special requests for workshop programs; suggest names of interesting speakers to Mrs. J.A.W. Richardson, RR 1, Box 70, Tavares, FL 32778.

SCHEDULE: Jan. issue.

TIME AND PLACE: If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Mrs. H. Harold Baker, 2128 Stanford Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the method and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

OUR COVER PAGE: Hybridized by Irene Fredette of Orange, CT, owner and operator of Fredette's Originals, 'Royal Hussy' was exhibited at the 1977 AVSA convention/Show in St. Louis, MO by Mary Boose of Trumbull, CT, owner and operator of "Heavenly Violets". 'Royal Hussy' received the Win Albright Memorial Award for the best seedling.

PERTAINING TO VIOLETS

4. Handy Helpers in Horticulture — Frances Young, Austin, TX
4. Use Your Blender
6. Restoring Vigor — John H. Pierce
10. Portable Potables — Rev. Larry E. Collins, Waco, TX
12. Make Your Own Sleeves — Norman E. Steinke, New Berlin, WI
12. Keep Plants Clean
14. His Attic Full of African Violets — Marge Fisher, Shreveport, LA
15. Ideas for Your Plant Sale — Mrs. Ralph Ritchie, Bellaire, TX
16. For Large Blooms
17. Coming Events
19. What? A Show? Aw, Forget It! — Gert Buckley, Wantagh, NY
20. Losing Club Members? Why? — Mrs. R. E. Schroeder, Dwight, IL
20. Keep Plants Clean
21. African Violets Grow on You. — Jane Joy, Morgan City, LA
22. They Came to Look—They Stayed to Buy — Mrs. Marjorie Dill, Gardiner, ME
23. African Violets—His Specialty
23. Grooming Plants
24. Limp Leaves
24. Segregate New Plants
26. Create Beautiful World of Violets — Lee McCall, Sarasota, FL
27. Three Steps in Potting Violets — Wayne McFarland
31. Light Necessary
33. Hybridizes 'Bell Ringing Fool' — Hazel Hebert, Nederland, TX
37. My Violet Love Story — Dolly Bruce, Portland, OR
38. Insect Facts — Dr. Charles L. Cole, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX
40. Continued Research Considered Necessary — Dr. Brent H. McCown, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
47. African Violet Fever — Marion Desmond
52. Beginner's Luck — Elizabeth L. Boudreau, Hopkinton, MA
53. Verbs to Violets
53. Burglars, too, Like Violets — Roma Wilson, St. Louis, MO
55. Propagate With Blossom Stems — Marshall Wheeler, Olean, NY
55. Wrong Collection Listed
55. Keep Plants Clean
56. Evaluating Educational Exhibits — Christine D. Leppard, Rochester, MI
56. Don't Throw Away Throwaways — Jan McDonald, Brownwood, TX
58. Portraits: Louis and Cecile Ambler
58. Helpful Hint
58. Remove Dead Blooms
58. Easy-Made Hothouse — Dr. Alvin W. Shultz, Prairie Village, KS
62. Try Harmless Witch's Brew — Nina Christian, Decatur, CA
63. Jensen's Gardens — A Tribute — Andy and Carol Anderson
63. From a Handful to a Houseful — Velma V. Dixon, Milwaukee, WI
64. Towards True Red, Orange and Yellow-Flowering African

- Violets — Peter C. Bilkey and Dr. Brent McCown, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
66. The Shameless Scavenger — Elizabeth H. Hansen, Jenkintown, PA
68. Affiliate 'Appenings

COLUMNISTS

3. Letter from AVSA President — Mrs. (E. A.) Melva Nelson, St. Louis, MO
7. Cross Your I's . . . and Dot Your T's — Mrs. W. F. (Neve) Anderson, St. Louis, MO
8. Registration Report — Mrs. Fred (Adele) Tretter, St. Louis, MO
9. Tally Time — 1977 — Mrs. John Chase (Mary) Reed, Bellevue, WA
13. Beginner's Column — Mrs. J. A. W. (Ann) Richardson, Tavares, FL
16. AVSA Affiliates — Mrs. Wayne (Mildred) Schroeder, Elmwood Park, IL
20. Your Library — Harvey L. Stone, Marblehead, MA
24. Musings From the 'Mini-Mam' — Mrs. Sidney (Ellie) Bogin, Long Island, NY
30. Boyce Edens Research Fund — Mrs. L. F. Lidiak, Austin, TX
31. AVSA Booster Fund — Mrs. Bill (Lucile) Plaster, Shreveport, LA
34. Question Box — Mrs. Frank (Anne) Tinari, Huntingdon Valley, PA
67. A Foote on the Violet Path — Mrs. Henry P. (Grace) Foote, Port Arthur, TX

SOCIETY BUSINESS

- INSIDE COVER PAGE — Strictly Business—Your Business — AVSA Directory
15. Judges' Names Are Omitted
 16. Revised Edition of AVSA Handbook — Melva B. Nelson, AVSA President
 31. New Life Members
 35. Mary Boland Is New Chairman
 41. Registered African Violets — Adele Tretter, AVSA Registrar
 47. African Violet (Saintpaulia) Species
 52. Hunting for Master Variety List No. 1 or No. 2?
 55. Incorrect Listing

CONVENTION

48. AVSA 32nd Annual Convention — Program Summary, Tours, Board Meetings, Show Information, Workshops
50. 1978 AVSA Nominees
52. Hanging Baskets in AVSA Show
52. More Awards for Named Varieties

MISCELLANEOUS

9. Our Apologies
11. Alkaline-Acid Relationship Most Important to Plants — Edgar M. Weaver, Beaumont, TX
13. Success Formula — Mrs. L. W. Nybo, Jr., Columbus, MS
55. In Memoriam
59. Kill Mites With Mites

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86. Cape Cod Violetry — Latest varieties
76. Carolina Violets — Leaf cuttings and starter plants
84. Castle Violets — AV leaves
71. Champion's — Champion variegates for 1978
82. Cindy's Violetry — Newest varieties by leading hybridizers
84. Lou Arta Corbin — African violets
84. Crestwood Violetry — Don't read this unless you want the best
75. Culture Book by Seattle AVS — Guidance and advice on growing, propagating
84. Dee's Violets — Fresh cut AV leaves
73. DoDe's Gardens — Growing supplies and fertilizers
69. Doris Drenner — African violets
73. Drosses Gesneriad Greenhouses — African violets, minis and trailers
69. Earth Flowers — African violet starter plants, gift plants
85. Eliseo's Violets — Home of variegates, minis, trailers
71. Violets at the Ernst's — AV leaves and plants
- INSIDE BACK COVER — Fischer Greenhouses — The newest of the new old time favorites, too!
81. FloraCart Watering Wand — Popular accessory for your FloraCart
78. Floralite Company — Lumen lighter stands
70. Fran's Fernery — Violets by Fran
69. Frathel's Originations — Newest and finest in African violets
80. Fredette Originals — pH Meter
82. Fredette Originals — Many new lovelies
80. The Green House — Bring your garden indoors - forget the weather!
77. Bernard Greeson - Growing supplies
73. Diane Grigsby — African violets
82. Pamela Groff — Reigning violets
77. Gerry Halusek - Pre-season African violet sale
83. Heavenly Violets — Fresh cut leaves, episcias, Allegro, plant:
85. High Hat — Fresh cut AV leaves and other gesneriad cuttings
83. Mrs. D. G. Holman — African violet collections
74. Phyllis Holzem — AV plants, minis and leaves
70. Home Grow Products — Enjoy a FloraCart
73. House of Violets Introductions — All new varieties
75. House of Violets — Moist-Rite self-watering planters
68. Indoor Gardening Supplies — Plant stands, light fixtures
71. Jef-Don Enterprises - Shade screens
71. Jim-Jan African Violets - Fresh cut leaves
70. Jump-Off Earthworm Farm — Earthworm castings
69. Kitty's African Violets — Fresh cut leaves
78. Kitty's Violets & Episcias — Beginners' special
83. Albert Krieger — African violet starter plants and leaves
71. Josephine Langowski — African violet leaves
72. Lebens Plant Co. — Vern Lorenzen violets
71. Leix's Village Violetry — Choice violets
76. Little Violet House — Leaves and newest varieties from leading hybridizers
71. Lloyd's African Violets — Variegated and green starter plants
74. Louise's Greenhouses — African violets, leaves, episcias
78. Lyndon Lyon — "Where the Violets Are"
84. Mary Lou's Violet Closet — Choice varieties from leading hybridizers
74. Mary's African Violets — Growing supplies, books on gardening
74. R. J. Miderski — Most of Best Varieties List for 1977 and other varieties
83. Miller's African Violets — Specialists in variegates
69. Peg Mitchell's Violet Farm — Fresh cut leaves
71. Mountain Greenery of New Mexico, Inc., — African violets, gesneriads, supplies
88. Ronn Nadeau - St. Louis Violet Nurseries — Hybrid AV seeds
69. Northbrook Nursery — Fresh cut AV leaves
77. Patches & Pots — Leaves and starter plants
88. Petite Dream Shoppe — African violets and episcias
78. Petrofsky Greenhouses — African violets and gesneriads
69. Plant Palace — Specializing in African violets
85. Plantsmith, Inc. — Spoonit plant food
74. Poyner's Greenhouses — African violets and related plants
69. Rainbow Forest — Mini leaves
84. Rhonda's African Violets — Fresh cut leaves and plants
69. Rice's Violetry — African violets plus
69. Rose Knoll Farms — Illini series and varieties by leading hybridizers
76. Schultz Instant Food
75. Seattle AVS Culture Book — guidance in AV growing and propagating
71. Sharon's African Violets —
69. Sheri's Greenhouses - African violets
81. Shoplite Company — New decorator stands
86. Sooner State Violet Nursery — Ronn Nadeau hybrids
86. Stand-Bye — Plastic wicked starter trays
75. Stim-U-Plant — African violet growing supplies
78. Strickland Greenhouses — Gesneriads and terrarium plants
83. Swaney's Glass Gardens — African violets and other gesneriads
- BACK COVER — Tinari Greenhouses — Choose from the finest cultivars to date
69. Tingles — Leaves, starter plants, gift plants
70. Tomara African Violets — New releases for 1978
85. Utopia — African violets and their relatives
69. Violet Buds & Blossoms — Miniatures, standards, variegates, supplies
88. Violet Depot — Parson's series and new introductions

82. Violet Fantasia — Newest varieties for 1978
84. Violet Gardens — Variegated, standards, miniatures, trailers
69. Violet Nook — Varieties by leading hybridizers
77. Violet Room — Green Gold Soilwash
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71. Violet Ville — New varieties, miniatures, variegates
83. Violet Window — Fresh cut AV leaves
79. Violets Atlanta — Five new violets from the Do series
76. Violets by Bess — AV leaves
69. Violets by Mary — AV plants
83. Violets Galore at the Gorals — Latest varieties from leading hybridizers
71. Volkhart's — African violets and gesneriads
73. Volkman's — Reservoir wick pots
80. The Walkers — postpaid supplies
74. White Cloud Farm — African violets
81. Wilson Bros. — Don's new African violets
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211 Allien Place
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- MRS. TERRANCE R. LEARY, Adv. Mgr.
2088 Illinois Ave., NE
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- MRS. CLARICE BELL
Office Manager
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Knoxville, TN 37901
- MRS. W. F. ANDERSON
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Letter From The AVSA President



Dear AVSA Members:

It scarcely seems possible this can be my last "Letter" to you. The first one was written almost in panic, wondering what in the world I'd find to say in all of those to follow over the next two years. But, that was just one of those things we worry about needlessly, for it has been a real pleasure to have these little bi-monthly visits with you.

Once again it is a pleasure to report that our membership continues to soar and AVSA is, indeed, alive and most healthy. As a new Captain prepares to take command of the "ship", I'm confident there will be calm seas and smooth sailing ahead.

Meanwhile, the Austin convention is almost here. The committee has worked hard to plan a week of exciting events for your pleasure and inspiration. The tours sound great, as do the workshops and it is really a pity there isn't time enough to take in everything. If you haven't sent in your registration as yet, better do so right away. I'm hoping to see many of you there.

There's something I'd like to mention concerning conventions. It's always disappointing to see such a small percentage of the members attending the Saturday business meeting. I realize this is due, in many cases, to conflicting plane or driving schedules, but if it is just a case of wanting to sleep a couple of hours longer, do a little sacrificing and come on down to the meeting. New officers and directors will be elected in Austin — they would be happy to have YOU extend them congratulations and good wishes.

It is fitting to pause and express sincere thanks to all of those dedicated AVSA Board members who have given so freely of their time and devotion to AVSA, in performance of their various duties. Their cooperation and help to me, personally, has been beautiful.

My best to each of you and — HAPPY GROWING!

Sincerely,

Melva

HANDY HELPERS IN HORTICULTURE

Frances Young
1400 Lorrain
Austin, TX 78703

The second nicest thing about belonging to an African violet club is the exchange of ideas adaptable to violet culture in making the growing process easier and more fun — that is, trying new tricks of the trade. I would like to share a few of the techniques and shortcuts which have worked for me — some borrowed, and some dreamed up at the kitchen sink or in the middle of the night when even the impossible seemed practical. I feel obliged to admit, however, there were just as many ideas tried once and discarded as they proved to be neither innovative nor time saving. Incidentally, the "first nicest thing" is getting acquainted with so many wonderful people with a common interest in growing African violets.

When I became a member of First Austin AVS six years ago, most of the members were wicking their plants and this method of watering appealed to me. I liked the community trays for small plants, but didn't enjoy working with the hardware cloth that was being used in the trays as it was difficult to manage without cutting one's fingers. Looking for something more pliable yet sturdy enough to hold 24 small plants in solo cups, I found a substitute to cover the trays in the form of a 3' square sheet of aluminum trim called "expanded aluminum".

This product is carried by lumber-yards for use by builders for kitchen trim, etc. There are different designs all of which have a uniform pattern, but the four-leaf-clover design worked best as its larger holes allow the nylon wicks easy passage into the fertilized water. A 3' square can be cut into four 12" x 24" pieces (three pieces vertically and one across the bottom) with a small portion left over. These rectangular pieces can be used over the top of four 11" x 22" green plastic plant trays. The aluminum rectangles should be turned down 1/2" - 1" over the ends of the tray and pressed under the edge. (Fig. 1) It is

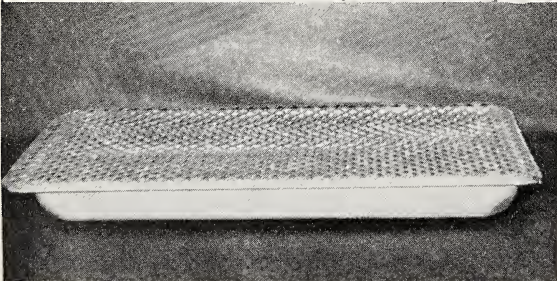


Fig. 1. - Plant tray with "expanded aluminum" cover pressed over ends and corners of tray.

also wise to mold the aluminum snugly around the tray corners for added support. The cover should fit securely over the tray while furnishing a suspended surface on which to set the plants. (Fig. 2) These

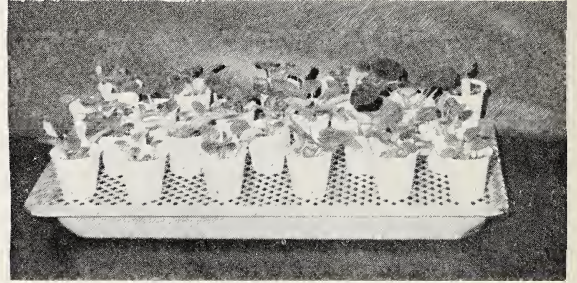


Fig. 2. - Wicked plantlets supported on aluminum covered plant tray. (Note holes in sides of pots.)

aluminum covers will not sag or rust and can be easily removed for washing in Clorox water. Fertilized water for constant feed can be added to the trays weekly without disturbing the plants or aluminum. I prefer the individual 16 oz. plastic reservoirs for blooming sized plants. This permits me to check and groom each plant on a regular schedule.

The experience of our club has been that African violets prefer a porous soil mixture with good air circulation to the root system. To achieve this goal, we have found that from 4 to 6 holes in the sides of plastic pots as well as in the bottom are a great help. (Fig. 2, Fig. 3). A small electric soldering iron (pencil type) with a 1/8" tip can be used to burn the holes in "jig time" without the danger of punching a hole in one's hand if an icepick is used. These irons can be purchased at a hardware store for less than \$5 and

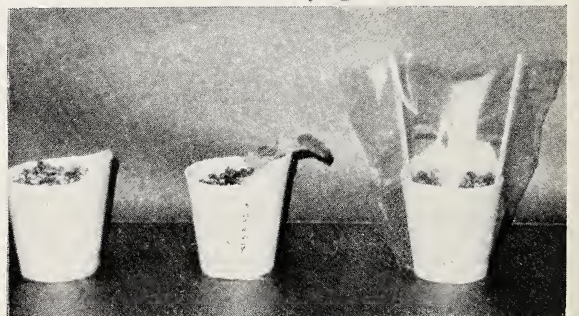


Fig 3. - Styrofoam cup on left has been cut down leaving 1" strip uncut. Cup in center shows back of planted leaf supported against 1" strip. Third cup has Baggie® placed over straws and leaf.

will last indefinitely — I've had mine for 5 years. Be sure to do this hole-burning job outside or where there is good ventilation. It is never safe to inhale the smoke from burning plastic. Holes in styrofoam pots can be punched with a blunt pencil — be sure the plug is removed. I feel certain that all "wickers" know that one can pull the wicking material up through a hole in the bottom of the pot if it is looped over a piece of floral wire with a small hook bent on one end. Be sure to pull the wick across to the opposite side of the pot to the top of the soil line, thus distributing the moisture more evenly. Wicks are cut from 3-ply nylon seine cord available at hardware stores and discount houses.

Everyone has their favorite gadgets with which to work. I have found that the handiest helpers are found by rummaging through the kitchen cabinets. A small plastic measuring scoop (1/8 cup capacity) is very convenient for adding soil around a plant when repotting. By keeping the plant centered in its new pot and turning the containers gradually, the soil will slide out of the scoop into the area between the root ball and sides of the pot. If a small plantlet is being transferred from a clump to a pot I find that a shallow layer of rooting mix sprinkled on top of the soil anchors the little plant and helps to avoid crown rot; the mix acts as a buffer between the damp soil and baby leaves. In some cases the plantlet may need to be braced with plastic toothpicks for 10 days, or until it has become adjusted. Larger plants can be supported temporarily after repotting with plastic swizzle sticks if the need arises. I recommend plastic whenever possible as it can be sterilized in a Clorox solution (1 part Clorox to 10 parts water) and reused. My plants are labeled on plastic markers with a No. 1 lead pencil; this allows easy erasing and reuse. Ink either blurs from spray misting or is permanent and difficult to remove.

My favorite gadget is a pointed wooden stick about 4" long which is used in meat markets for skewering roasts, etc. With a little practice the pointed end of this little tool can be used to probe and remove a sucker 100% of the time without cutting an adjoining leaf. Also, it can be used to separate little plantlets from the mother leaf without damaging the root system. When repotting loosen the plant by pushing up through the bottom holes of the pot with the blunt end of the stick. Be sure to wash this handy accessory in Clorox water regularly. Your butcher will probably give or sell you a few of these "magical" little sticks.

If you have access to an office wastebasket with a coffeepot nearby, you can probably collect all the styrofoam cups (7 oz. size) you will ever need for rooting leaves. Punch holes in the bottom and sides of the cup with the blunt end of your wooden stick.

Cut off the top of the cup 1/2" down with the exception of a 1" wide strip. (Fig. 3) A leaf with a 1 1/2" stem can be planted 1/2" deep in rooting mix at an angle permitting the back of the leaf to be supported against the strip of the cup left uncut. (Fig. 3) Insert 5" plastic straws into the rooting mix on both sides of the leaf and place a Baggie® (sandwich size) over the leaf and straws. (Fig. 3) The straws keep the plastic bag from resting on the leaf, yet the humidity is retained allowing the leaf to root more quickly. Do not close the Baggie® but allow some air to circulate to prevent moisture forming on the inside. The rooting mix may be kept damp by wicking.

A plastic shoe box will accommodate 8 styrofoam cups, each planted with its own leaf as described above. A piece of the leftover expanded aluminum cut 8" x 11" and folded under approximately 1" on the two long sides will fit into the shoe box. (Fig. 4)



Fig. 4. - Plastic shoe box and expanded aluminum "bridge" to be used for wicking leaves.

The aluminum "bridge" will support the individually wicked cups above the waterline. (Fig. 5). Leave Bag-



Fig. 5. - Aluminum bridge placed inside shoe box to support wick cups of leaves above water line.

gie® in place until leaf is rooted and firm in the cup (from 3 to 4 weeks). A good rooting mixture for propagating leaves consists of 4 parts coarse vermiculite, 1 part milled sphagnum moss, 1 part perlite and 1/2 part charcoal.

In transporting plants to shows and sales rec-

tangular pieces of styrofoam make excellent lightweight carriers. A handy size is 36" long, 12" wide and 2" deep, available at variety stores and florists. Round or square holes to fit your pots can be cut in the styrofoam by using a sawing motion with a serrated kitchen knife. To accommodate smaller plants cut four holes to fit 3" pots down one side within 1" to 2" from the edge; while four larger holes can be cut on the other side for 3½" pots. (Fig. 6).

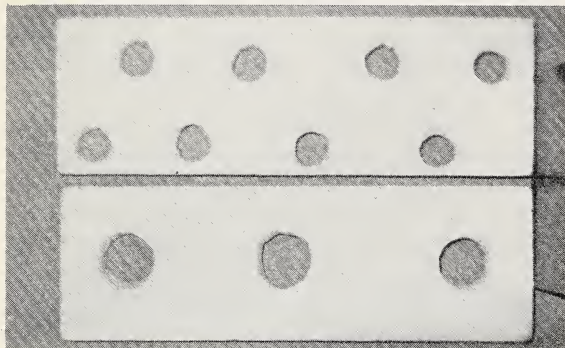


Fig. 6. - Styrofoam carriers for transporting plants. (Note that holes in top carrier are not directly opposite one another.)

To protect the foliage of larger plants several 4" to 5" holes can be hollowed out of the middle of another piece of styrofoam. (Fig. 6). This makes a sturdy carrier, but be sure to use styrofoam of 2" thickness to support the weight of the plants. (Fig. 7).

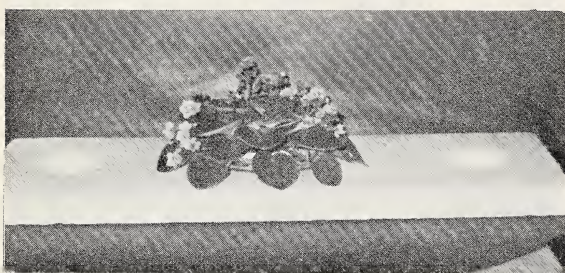


Fig. 7. - Styrofoam carriers must have 2" thickness to support plants.

If the hole in the styrofoam is too large for the pot size, temporarily slip the plant, pot and all, into a larger pot and insert into the hole for transporting. Because they are lightweight two carriers can be handled at one time — carefully of course — without the necessity of packing each plant in boxes with newspaper collars. I do not recommend this method of transporting for exceptionally large show plants.

As mentioned above, these methods and devices have worked for me. You probably have found other unique uses for throw-aways, gadgets, etc. adaptable to your violets' culture; but since we are always striving for more efficiency in the mechanics of growing, I hope you find some of these suggestions helpful to you.



PETER PAN THEME — "Peter Pan, Tinker Bell and Violets" was the theme of the 24th annual show of the Union County Chapter, AVSA, in Westfield, NJ. Winners were: Best in Show, 'Woodland Sprite', runner-up, 'Pink Blueberry', sweepstakes runner-up (35 blues, 5 reds), best variegated foliage, 'Bashful Betsy', best arrangement, 'Fairy Dust', 2nd best Maas introduction, 'Frankie', Best AVSA Collection (Gold Rosette) 'Bashful Betsy', 'Frankie', 'Pink Blueberry', Best NJCAVC Collection, 'Woodland Sprite', R. Mars', Gaetano', best species, 'S. Pendula V. Kizarae', best Rhapsodie, 'Mars', Edward Bradford; 2nd runner-up, Best in Show, 'White Madonna', Aline Orling; sweepstakes, (35 blues, 14 reds) best Maas introduction, 'Ruffled Red', best mini, 'Baby Dear', Mable Hudson; best invitational entry, 'Nature Boy', Ray Dooley; best artistic planting, "Hollow Tree Home", best arrangement runner-up, "Lost Shadow", Mrs. Catherine Hunt; runner-up, "Never, Never Land", Mrs. Becky Altero; best novice, 'Mary C', Mayo Murray; best AVSA Commercial Collection, 'Frankie', Carol', 'Flamingo', Max Maas; educational display, Chris Leppard.

RESTORING VIGOR

John H. Pierce in "Plants Alive" notes the value of certain hormone-vitamin preparations in restoring vigor to sickly or lagging plants. He explains that "these preparations contain rooting hormones such as indolebutyric acid and naphthaleneacetic acid, which stimulate the production of tiny feeding roots, and vitamins like B-1 that aid the growth of these roots. Thus these substances, which are not fertilizers, help the plant to take up more nutrients for improved health and growth.

CROSS YOUR I's . . . and DOT YOUR T's . . .

Mrs. W. F. Anderson
360 Tulip Drive
St. Louis, MO 63119

The terms "patented" and "registered" do not have the same meaning and the terms are not interchangeable. A patented plant may also be a registered plant but only if the hybridizer applies for and meets the requirements for registration.

Patented plants are protected according to the laws of the country issuing the patent. General patent laws cover mechanical processes and gadgets. In the U.S., on May 23, 1930, certain amendments were adopted to include plants. These amendments are generally known as the "Plant Patent Act".

The life of a plant patent is 17 years. A plant patent claims novelty in color, form, habit, hardiness or any other distinction established to the satisfaction of the U.S. Patent Office authorities. A new seedling or a variation from an existing cultivar, called a "sport", may merit a plant patent.

The owner of a patent may defend against infringements; sell or lease the patent plant or propagating rights; or refuse to permit the introduction of the plant. He may make licenses or arrange for a royalty which guarantees extra income to justify his research expense.

Registration is a public claim to having originated a new and worthy cultivar of *Saintpaulia* (African violet), named according to the code of rules for nomenclature and with a published description of the cultivar named with the distinguishing characteristics of plant, flower, foliage and originator.

One of the earliest AVSA projects, included in the first bylaws as one of the objects and mentioned in Volume 1, Number 1 of the *African Violet Magazine* in 1947, was the establishment of the first classification committee headed by W. D. Holley to standardize cultivar names of all the types in existence then. Of course this is a very important phase of AVSA work today with the hundreds of new cultivars being introduced each year.

For more than two years before the XVII International Horticultural Congress met in 1966 on the campus of the University of Maryland, College Park, MD, AVSA, under the direction of President Frank Burton, had worked to bring its registration procedure into compliance with the International Code for the Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants in order to present its petition to be appointed the official registration authority for the genus *Saintpaulia*.

Upon the review and recommendation of the Inter-

national Commission for the Registration of Horticultural Plants, AVSA's petition was presented to the Council of the International Society for Horticulture Science and on August 20, 1966 AVSA was appointed the International Registration Authority for the genus *Saintpaulia*. AVSA is very proud of this assignment.

For information on the code of rules for nomenclature and the process required for plant registration, refer to the *African Violet Magazine*, Volume 27, Number 23, page 70 (June 1974 issue).

All well informed AVSA members are aware of the importance of using the proper name for any cultivar. Avoid abbreviations that can be confusing to others. Avoid adding a word to the name tag such as "pink" or "blue" or "miniature" as a descriptive term when it is not part of the name. Check for proper name spelling and by all means avoid coining a new name for an existing cultivar!



JUST A FEW — Here are just a few of the 1,000 African violets taken care of daily by 83-year-old Mrs. Forest Doster of Bettsville, O. Just recently Mrs. Doster has been written up in several Ohio newspapers who termed her home an "African violet paradise." Because of her expert knowledge of working with plants, she is sought out as a speaker for garden clubs and other civic and community groups.

See Inside Front Cover "Strictly Business—Your Business", for names of persons to whom you are to send questions or any matters pertaining to AVSA. This is an AVSA Directory! Use it!

REGISTRATION REPORT



Adele Tretter
4988 Schollmeyer
St. Louis, MO 63109

(NOTE TO REGISTRANTS: The Editor would like to use color slides of your newly registered violets in the Magazine. Use only light backgrounds. Dark slides cannot be reproduced. Send original color slides to Editor with name of plant and name of hybridizer.)

The following registrations have been received during the period from October 1, 1977 through December 1, 1977.

HOT KISS (3227) D-PX 5 sf S 10/15/77
MAUVE EYES (3228) L-OPX 29 sf S 10/15/77
PALE FACE (3229) L-P 39 s S 10/15/77
ROSY FRILLS (3230) M-PX 359 sf S 10/15/77
SUNBURN (3231) D-PX 59 s S 10/15/77
L. Sebastian, 3809 Plateau, Little Rock, AR 72205

VIOLA (3232) D-PW-E 4 df S 10/24/77
Granger Gardens', Medina, OH

SHARON LYNN (3233) D-PX 5 s-d S 10/28/77
W. F. Whiffen, 1620 Virginia St. East, Charleston,
WV 25311

CHERRY SWIRL (3234) WPC 5 df S 11/5/77
PEPPERMINT PATTI (3235) PX 5 df S 11/5/77
RASPBERRY SWIRL (3236) WRC 5 df S 11/5/77
L. D. Robinson, 2749 McDowell Rd., Durham,
NC 27705

CHRISTOPHER HOWARD (3237) M-B 256 sf S
11/8/77

E. Fisher, 32 Downsview Ave., Downsview, On-
tario Canada M3M1C9

CATS MEOW (3238) R-PW-E 35 s-df L 11/11/77
COTTON BOWL (3239) W 35 df L 11/11/77
DUTCH SKIES (3240) BW 35 df L 11/11/77
HILL COUNTRY (3241) D-P 5 df L 11/11/77
SWEET VIOLET (3242) L-O 2 s-d L 11/11/77
Swifts', P. O. Box 28012, Dallas, TX 75228

THE MUSICIAN (3243) OX 38 s-d S 11/12/77
Rev. L. E. Collins, 1333 Riverside, Waco, TX
76706

BELL RINGING FOOL (3244) OX 3 d L 11/23/77
Hazel Hebert, 2720 Avenue M, Nederland, TX
77627

FINGERPAINTS (3245) R-PBG-E 5 s & df S
11/24/77

Alene King, 1747 Brandenburg, San Antonio, TX
78232

MOBY DICK (3246) P 2 df S 11/25/77
Cape Cod V., 28 Minot St., Falmouth, MA 02540

VAL'S SWEET DREAM (3247) L-P 279 d S
11/25/77

VAL'S TOP ANGEL (3248) PX 59 df L 11/25/77

VAL'S WINSOME PINK (3249) PW-E 35 d L
11/25/77

Gertrude Pesson, 1214 Common, Lake Charles,
LA 70601

ELECT LADY (3250) P 359 sf S 11/28/77

PATTE GAE (3251) P 35 s-df S 11/28/77

Betty Bryant, 8918 Dogwood Dr., Tomball, TX
77375

RESERVATIONS

The following reservations have been received during the same period as above.

AUTUM — GRAPE 11/19/7. Reserved by Mrs.
Mary Mahen, 12816 Bourbon Red Dr., St. Louis,
MO 63131

PLUM PUDDING — ALICE DULCE — FLOSSY
FLIRT — JENNIFER ANN — FIRST CHILD —
Reserved by Alice Wiesner, 533 Olmos Dr., San An-
tonio, TX 78212

RENEWALS

TEACHER'S PET 10/1/77 Irene Fredette
MAX'S PRIDE 10/1/77 Margaret W. Perrson

CORRECTIONS

GRANDDAD (3120) Changed from semiminiature

to a standard.

KNEE HIGH Changed from a standard to a miniature.

DENIM BLUE Changed from a miniature to a semiminiature.

BALLET LISA AND *BALLET KARLA* Changed purple to a pink.

BALLET ERICA Changed to reddish purple.

BALLET ULLI — *BALLET META* — *BALLET EVA* — *BALLET INGE* Changed to dark blue.

CANCELLATIONS

ROYALTY — *PRINCE INDIGO* — *SWANEE LOU* — *BICENTENNIAL '76*



AVSA COLLECTION — At the New Orleans (LA) AVS show, "Violets in an Oriental Mood", winners of the AVSA Best Collection Awards were Mrs. Frank H. Renaudin (top photo) with best collection, 'Step-Up', 'Heather Blue' and 'Sweet Mary'; and Mrs. Marian Magee (lower photo) with 2nd best, 'Susie Bearden', 'Mark', and 'Flamingo'. Mrs. Magee, winner of 35 blue ribbons, 8 best in class and 5 rosettes, also won Best of Show, 'Anita', 2nd best, 'Mark', best gesneriad, 'Cleopatra', and sweepstakes.



Tally Time — 1977

Mrs. John Chase (Mary) Reed
17124 NE 29th Place
Bellevue, WA 98008

No. of Awards	Variety	Hybridizer	Registration No.
21	Garnet Elf, (Granger)	2339	
13	Becky (Maas)	2669	
13	Starshine (Granger)	2349	
12	Delft Imperial (Granger)	1326	
10	Nancy Reagan (Rienhardt)	2167	
10	Tina (Maas)	2680	
9	Mary D (Maas)	2675	
8	Chanticleer (Granger)	1386	
8	Flamingo (Maas)	2670	
8	Tommie Lou (Oden)	1744	
8	Top Dollar (Rienhardt)	2168	

SEMIMINIATURES

- 6 Beginner's Luck (Pritchett) 2803
- 6 Little Jim (Maas) 3005
- 5 Blue Sprite (Lyon) 2725
- 4 Azure Trinket (Champion) 2277

MINIATURES

- 10 Midget Bon Bon (Champion) 2282
- 5 Tiny Pink (Lyon) 1648
- 5 Window Blue (Reed) 1710

Tally Time is a listing of the varieties receiving the greatest number of total awards at shows during 1977. The awards are for AVSA Collection Awards, Best of Show, Second Best of Show, Best Semiminiature, and Best Miniature.

To assist in compiling further lists, please record the names of the varieties in your show which win the above awards and send to Mrs. Mildred Schroeder, Affiliate Chairman, 1739 N 74th Court, Elmwood Park, IL 60635.

Our Apologies

On page 61 of the September Magazine, the color photo of 'Celia' should have read 'Celine', which was named in honor of Celine Chase, the AVSA Awards Chairman; and the 'Little John', listed on page 51 as a named cultivar, eligible for a prize at the Austin convention, should have been 'Little Jim', a mini, named in honor of Jimmy Watson, AVSA Commercial Sales and Exhibits chairman.

PORTABLE POTABLES

Rev. Larry E. Collins
133 Riverside
Waco, TX 76706

How do you move 100 violets? Very carefully! When my wife and I decided to move to another city, we were at a loss as to how to move our collection of 200 violets over the 225 miles to our new home. When we had moved 18 months before, we only had six violets (then we got the "fever.") So we sold and gave away 100 from our collection that were duplicates or ones we knew we could replace quickly and easily. Then it became my duty to engineer the moving of the remaining 100. Here's how I did it:

(1) I got a large double-thick packing crate from an office supply house, that was 3'x4'x4' and a refrigerator crate from an appliance store.

(2) I cut 4 slits in both ends of the 3'x4'x4' crate that were 1/2" high and 46" wide (Fig. 1), one 6"

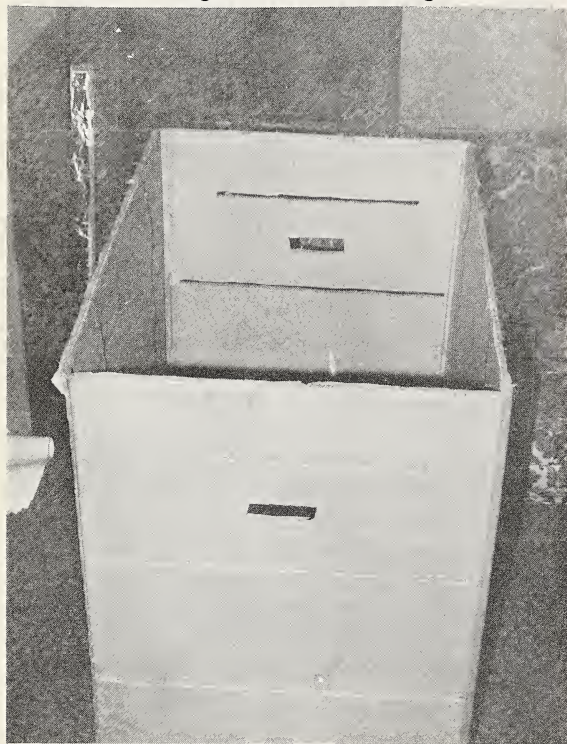


Figure 1

from the bottom, and the other 3 12" apart.

(3) I cut 4 pieces of cardboard from the refrig crate that were 46"x52". This made the pieces 3" longer than the crate and 2" narrower. You'll see why.

(4) I laid down each piece of cardboard and placed violets on it, spacing them so that their foliage barely touched, and then I traced around the pots. (Fig. 2)



Figure 2

(5) I cut out the holes, making them $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ " larger to let the pot slip down up to its rim. I did this for each violet on each of the 4 pieces of cardboard, and marked each hole with the name of the violet. (Fig. 3)

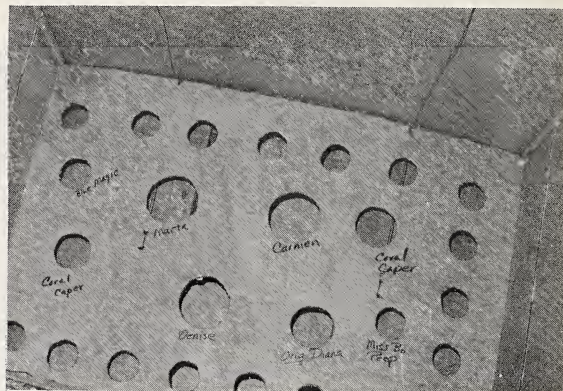


Figure 3

(6) I slipped the bottom piece of cardboard through the slots in the end of the crate, put 2 lengths of insulated wire under the cardboard tied through holes drilled near the top of the crate, for support.

(7) I placed each violet in its respective hole. (Fig. 4)



Figure 4

(8) I repeated steps (6) - (7) for each of the remaining layers, and covered the top with plastic.

We placed the crate in a U-haul with some of the other things we didn't want the movers to handle, and successfully moved 99 out of the 100 violets!

Here are a few additional hints: Let the violets get

a little dry before you space them on the cardboard and pack them—they handle easier if the foliage is not too crisp. Then give each of them a drink just before you add the next layer. If you have to choose between a small and a large plant, choose a small one—they pack easier and seemed to show less shock.

Our plants stayed in the crate for 3 days with no ill effects. Fortunately, although we moved in May, we had a cloudy, mild day to move, not a Texas scorcher. But we were prepared to put some dry ice in the trailer if the temperature went above 80 degrees (and the plants would love the carbon dioxide).

This method also works well on a small scale, as I packed 8 large violets for my mother-in-law, and they travelled 250 miles in the back seat of the car.

So don't leave your collection when you move—pack it and take it!

this relates to the release of nitrogen and potash. At both extremes of the pH scale which is a measure of hydrogen ions, the tendency of fine clay particles to clump which makes soil friable is destroyed. This makes clay soils found in many sections of our country, sticky when wet and hard as concrete when dry.

In alkaline soils (pH of 8 and above) the amount of nitrogen, phosphorous, iron, manganese, copper and zinc in solution often become so low that for satisfactory growth special treatment is necessary.

Perhaps the most important aspect of soil reaction is not the critical deficiencies of minor elements which certain pH values bring about, but on solubility or availability of major fertilizer elements, nitrogen, phosphorus and potash which is controlled to a greater degree by these same pH values.

The whole complex soil plant relationship is based on the millions of bacterial organisms in the soil. A certain group of bacteria good and bad will thrive in a designated pH range.

Alkaline-Acid Relationship Most Important to Plants

Edgar M. Weaver
Jefferson County Agricultural Agent
Beaumont, TX 77704

There can be several reasons why plants do not respond to certain treatments. The so-called starvation symptoms in plants are not always caused by actual lack of essential minerals in the soil

These nutritional elements may be present but unavailable to the plant because the soil is too alkaline or too acid.

When ailing plants fail to respond to fertilizer application it usually suggests that this important alkaline-acid relationship — soil pH — is out of balance.

A soil test for this acidity or alkalinity can very easily be made with the use of litmus paper or small garden testing kits. Your test will only be an estimate. The litmus paper test will only tell you if the soil is acid or alkaline. We need a closer degree of measurement of pH to be able to adequately determine the change needed. A neutral soil will have a pH of 7 with values below 7 acid and those above 7 being alkaline.

Soil reaction or soil pH is vital because it has profound influence on many factors connected with plant growth in addition to its effect on the availability of plant nutrients.

It affects the activity of soil bacteria particularly as



TECHELAND VIOLETS — Here are some top winners in the Techeland AVS show "Make the Techelands Bloom with African Violets", held in Franklin, LA. They are, left to right: Minos Ponville with Queen of Show, 'Double Black Cherry', and novice, 'R. Venus', Audrey Guillotte show chairman and sweepstakes winner with 33 blues and 2nd best, 'R. Monique'; Gracie Guillotte, show cochairman, AVSA Best Collection (Gold Rosette), 'Nancy Reagan', 'Blue Storm', 'Chanticleer', best variegated, 'Gov. Wallace', best mini, 'Little Delight', best trailer, 'Pixie Trail', best novice grooming, 'R. Audrey', best terrarium; and Ursula Carmichael, sweepstakes runner-up with 13 blue ribbons, best decorative container, best dish garden. Additional awards were as follows: Best club project, 'Tommie Lou', Frances Ponville; best arrangement, Genevieve Tevay; club scrapbook, Grace Brand.

Make Your Own Sleeves

(Sketches by Gene Garner)

Norman E. Steinke
5220 So. Nicolet Drive
New Berlin, WI 53151

Have you ever tried making your own wrappers for plants to be sold at your shows? Plants, handed to a customer, wrapped in a newspaper or a paper bag, don't look good for a big show. Plants, packaged for sale, look neater and better and sell easier in a sleeve.

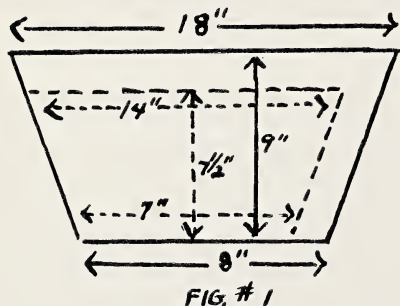
I grow African violets and sell my surplus at flea markets. I had to have an easy way to take them to the flea market and give them to the customer, so the packaging had to be done at home. So I devised a sleeve to put them in. The plants always make the trip in good shape, and are easy to put in or take out of the sleeve without damaging the plant leaves.

I do not recommend them for large or show plants or as a pot cover.

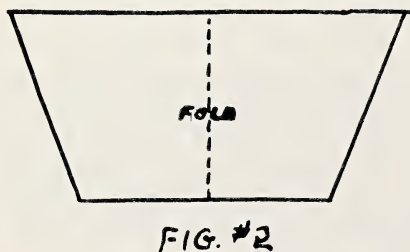
Shelf paper makes good sleeves. The rolls are 18 inches wide x 13½ yards long and make 70 sleeves, the larger size. Use the 14" paper for smaller sleeves. Cut the roll in half, that is 9" long. Cut with a fine tooth saw, then unroll and mark with pattern and cut with shears, then fold and tape.

The 18" paper is for 3 and 3½" pots. the 14" paper is for 2½" and smaller pots.

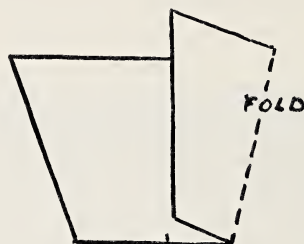
First cut to size shown (Fig. 1), then fold to get



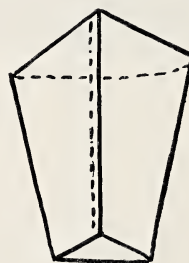
center line. (Fig. 2. Then fold again as shown in Fig.



3, and finally as in Fig. 4. Put together with masking



tape and plant can easily be slipped into sleeve.



18" SIZE FOR 3" & 3½" POTS

14" SIZE FOR 2½" POT AND SMALLER

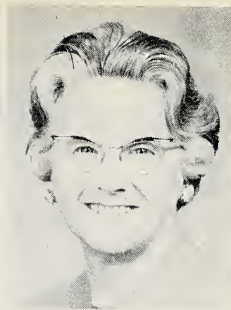
KEEP PLANTS CLEAN

African violets derive air and moisture through their leaves. So keep the leaves clean. Remove dust and small bits of earth with a soft, clean brush.

And this is good advice, too, to those taking pictures of African violets. The camera picks up the smallest detail — and dust or specks of dirt will show up if they're there!

BEGINNER'S COLUMN

Mrs. J.A.W. (Ann) Richardson
RR #1, Box 70
Tavares, FL 32778



PESTS AND DISEASES

This column is directed at the beginner-only. Commercial growers have an investment to protect and must use methods other than those used by amateurs. For instance a commercial grower could not look at each plant to see what is going on and the same is true of those hobbyists who have hundreds of plants.

Basically, there are six methods of controlling insects and diseases.

I. **Spraying periodically.** I, personally, do not approve of this method for beginners. In the first place, they do not know how to handle pesticides as they should be handled. Secondly, their conditions usually are such that they cannot keep the spray from entering the entire house. Thirdly, I do not feel that we should fill the air unnecessarily with pesticides. However, if in spite of these comments you still wish to spray periodically, be sure to use a mask and gloves. Follow the directions on the label **exactly**. If you have just a few plants take them outdoors for spraying.

II. **Spray when necessary for what you have.** Use same precautions as above and repeat in about 10 days to kill any eggs that might hatch.

III. **Systemic granules in the soil.** These granules enter the stem and leaves of the plant and poison any sucking insects. Be careful about how you dispose of the soil. Don't just dump it in the garden. Put it in a plastic bag and put it in the garbage. Prevent children and animals from nibbling on the leaves.

IV. **Always use sterilized soil.** Some of the pests that inhabit African violets are not the least affected by sprays. Unless the package has been carelessly handled you don't buy troubles with your soil. See articles in the **African Violet Magazine** on how to sterilize your own soil. I'm told that microwave ovens do a quick job. Also sterilize pots, knives, etc.

V. **Segregate plants.** Put new plants as far away from your others as possible and keep them there until you are absolutely sure they are clean and healthy. Do not put other types of plants or even a bouquet of flowers near your collection. Before adding new violets to your others repot in your usual soil and have a good look at what is going on in the root system. Knots and galls below and dull droopy

foliage above indicate Root Nematodes.

VI. **Keep an eagle eye out for trouble.** While you are watering or just admiring, note if there is anything going on that is unusual. One day I noted that my plants looked as if someone had put powdered sugar on my plants. My small microscope showed me lots of white flies. An immediate light spray followed by another five days later cleared up the matter. What had happened was that I had left the windows open at night, the lights were on and the flies were attracted to the lights and came right in through the screen.

It is difficult for the beginner to recognize the type of insect when he sees it but you can often tell by how the plant looks. For instance cyclamen mites will have a brittle, distorted center which is yellow, gray or brown with an unnatural hairiness. Now you **know** that that is not natural!

If you have an Agricultural Center nearby take the plant to it for the very best advice on what you have and how to treat it. Stores which sell plants and insecticides will also be able to give advice. If you belong to an African violet club take the plant to a meeting wrapped in a plastic bag. If none of these sources is available there are fine books devoted to growing African violets that will describe most of the problems that cause troubles on African violets and what to do about them. **Also, see articles in the African Violet Magazine.**

One of my best possessions is a small pencil-type microscope. With it I can see whether the small white dots on the leaves are just scraps of perlite or mealy bugs. Everyone should own one. It would make a terrific gift for you. Start hinting!

SUCCESS FORMULA

Here's a formula for success, which Mrs. L. W. Nybo, Jr., of Columbus, MS says she's had for many years. Here it is:

"To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better—whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you lived — This is to have succeeded."

His Attic Is Full Of African Violets

Marge Fischer
Shreveport, LA

Tom E. Toms of Bossier City, LA, winner of the AVSA Best Collection (Gold Rosette), the TubeCraft Award, a complete FloraCart, and six other awards at the AVSA Convention/Show in St. Louis, MO, is "the least likely person" to latch on to African violets as a hobby.

Tall with sandy-grayish hair that used to be more plentiful, Toms looks as though he'd be more at home on a golf course. And he is — as often as possible.

But somehow or another he manages to get in a few hours of "violet work" each day.

Some African violet aficionados might have a shelf filled with their frilly favorites, or maybe a couple. This retired Air Force captain has a green-attic; the Toms version of a greenhouse, containing 1,000 or so gorgeous specimens. He has raised — to date — approximately 300 varieties on the top floor of his Bossier City residence.

Toms' indoor gardening venture has — in a mere 2½ years — grown from a few plants and one \$11 fluorescent light to a room full of violets: many plants, many racks and many lights. His chief assistant is his wife Jean. In fact, she's so good at the helping part that the twosome, with only a little additional advice from their son Buster and a friend or two, took a bare, unfinished attic, installed a stairway in a closet, paneled the walls, carpeted the floor and built in sink and storage areas.

"Half of the room was supposed to be MY hobby area," said the blonde, attractive Jean. Her specialty — when not teaching school in Bossier Parish schools — is china painting. However, the violets took over. Jean ended up with only one small corner to call her own — a corner in which she completed the cabinet installation all by herself.

"I came home one day, and she had it all done," said Toms proudly.

Obviously the Toms both are handy with hammer and saw. They solved the problem of the air conditioning duct that's located down the center of the room by building a stile-like arrangement. It boasts a tabletop area and small carpeted steps to provide access from one side of the room to the other.

The attic-full-of-African-violets — in various stages from little-bitty babies (leaves rooting in vermiculite) to medium-sized ones (about 6-8 inches in diameter) to the splendid specimens that measure 13-15 inches across — sport blossoms in every shade of violet and lavender, rose, white, white-rimmed-with-blue, or white tinted with pink and deep rosy purple. The leaves range from smooth-edged to fril-

ly, from deep green to lighter green to a magnificent variegated type.

Jean aptly described her husband's pastime as "A hobby that gets away from you."

"Yes," said Toms, "There are approximately 30,000 varieties and you want one of each!"

It all started — as most things do — from an incidental happening. "I really never had any special interest in flowers," said Toms, who is vocational rehabilitation counselor for Bossier Parish. "My secretary left an African violet on my desk one morning; it was a little dried up thing. I said, 'What is it? Aren't they supposed to bloom?'"

"Why don't you see if you can get it to bloom," she requested.

So Toms got a book on the subject, picked up half a dozen plants and took them to his office.

Then he acquired more literature. "For months I read and studied about African violets," said Toms. "Our first rack was in the den; then they spread into the utility room; next, the violets took over a bedroom. That's when my wife rebelled. She first suggested that we build a small house in back, but after talking it over, we decided to put the violets in the attic."

Now the room stays filled with the blossoming beauties. By word of mouth, Toms' reputation has spread. People knock on the door, begging to buy; and friends leave the Toms' residence loaded down with showy specimens.

Toms claims that the Shreveport African violet authority who has helped him tremendously is Mrs. T. K. Thomas, who has raised the flowering plants for some 25 years. "She's a member of the Top Choice African Violet Society and generously has shared her know-how with me," he said.

The top-of-the-house gardening center is equipped with lights — both fluorescent and incandescent — the proper humidity and temperature and a caretaker who whistles while he works. His violets seem to thrive on it.

It takes, on the average, four hours a day to keep his project going. "We both work at it," said the indoor gardener. This means potting, pinching back (the secret to big, healthy foliage is the ruthless courage to disbud at the proper time), spraying, feeding (Toms uses the constant watering and feeding method) and everything else that goes with producing prize-winning plants.

If you, too, would like to raise spectacular African violets, all you have to do is give them a super place to live, feed them well, groom them meticulously — and whistle a lot.

IDEAS FOR YOUR PLANT SALE

*Mrs. Ralph Ritchie
African Violet Study Club of Houston
4608 Birch
Bellaire, TX 77401*

If you have never conducted an African violet plant sale and Show before - - - beware! Some years ago, our club held its first plant sale and show. Previously, we had had just sales held in local shopping malls with nice rewards. But nothing prepared us for what was to come when we sold plants in conjunction with an African Violet Show. So here are just a few ideas to help you.

As plant sale chairman, you are in charge of GUESSING how many violets will sell. My guess was 300! "What was I ever going to do with all those leftovers?" Our first mistake: Our booth was inside the Show room. When the doors opened, everyone headed to our area instead of the judged plants. We were sold out in 30 minutes. An order was quickly placed with local growers for 300 more plants. We could not locate any more than that. Oh well! Wisdom learned: Have the plant sale open before the Show, and preferably, have the sale in another room. Try to have workers wear something with pockets for money.

Speaking of money . . . remember to have someone responsible for taking this money away every few hours. You cannot keep it all in your area. It mounts up too fast and to an alarming amount!

Our second Show! Boy, were we prepared for anything . . . 1500 plants strong. (Oh yes, we reserved a space for the next week at a local shopping mall to sell the leftovers . . . There weren't any. We cancelled it!) What we learned this time: Do not have your plants delivered more than four days before the Show. Remember they have to be unpacked, watered, and priced. Have a plant-pricing party. Don't invite too many. Four people can price 1500 plants in three hours, easy. Have as many plants delivered by the growers to the sales area as possible. We had to make four trips to the airport and six trips to different local growers before the sale. Also, have your members grow and donate as many baby plants as possible. These will be all profit. And try to have starters of some of the winning plants in the Show — everybody wants these.

Oh, yes, be sure you check your growers' plants and donations for any problems. We sell only plants we are sure of being bug free as possible. But tell beginners to isolate them and give them a free AVSA pamphlet to insure a new friend and grower.

We also sell old AVSA magazines that we order from the AVSA office in Knoxville. These sell well to both our members and new growers as a chance to see where we have grown in relation to our new varieties and old

favorites.

In ordering try to buy variegated plants and white or two-tone ones. These sell well to beginners. At least two Master Variety Lists are a must for your plant sale area. Please remember that your older growers want to locate the older varieties (original 10 varieties and species) and the very newest plants on the market. You can place a large order for these where an individual would find postage too high for one or two plants.

If you have any questions, please feel free to write . . . I might know the answer and I would be glad to help.

Our next show will be coming up soon. How many plants? Over 4,000. Will it be enough . . . or "What are we going to do with the leftovers?"

JUDGES' NAMES ARE OMITTED

Sorry, we don't work with a computer so we could blame it for errors and omissions of judges' names from the November list. It seems that no matter how carefully the names are checked by Ruth Carey, judges' chairman, Clarice Bell at the Knoxville office, and the magazine editor, one or more names are always left out.

All I can say is we're sorry. These names were omitted:

Mrs. Edward W. Buschke, 11 Drumlin Drive, Morris Plains, NJ 07950; Mrs. E. G. Brown, 45 South Valley Rd., Palmerdale, AL 35123; Mrs. Walter E. Thompson, 2907 Southwood Rd., Birmingham, AL 35223, and Mrs. Patricia Cohen, 3741 Claremont St., Irvine, CA 92714.

The asterisk, designating a person as a Lifetime Judge, inadvertently was omitted from the name of Mrs. Frederick W. Oswald, 5 Euston Road, Garden City, NY 11530, who became a Lifetime Judge Oct. 26, 1976, and Mrs. O. G. Pierson, 5629 Westcreek Dr., Ft. Worth, TX 78233, who became a Lifetime Judge Nov. 26, 1976.

It has just come to our attention that the name of a Lifetime Judge was also omitted from the November list. She is Mrs. Charles M. Berry, 3801 Shelby Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76109.

Our sincere apologies to all of you!

AVSA AFFILIATES

Mrs. Wayne (Mildred) Schroeder
Affiliate Chairman
1739 N 74th Court
Elmwood Park, IL 60635



It is show time again and thanks to those fine eager beaver Show chairmen, the requests for AVSA awards have been rolling in early. This gives me a chance to work in advance of the heavy work load of many shows and chapter charters due at the same time. Each year the shows become bigger, better and above all an outstanding challenge to the clubs to win those awards. All awards are now being mailed first class and should arrive at their destination without delay but please do not forget to send in your requests as early as possible.

SWEEPSTAKES AWARDS

As a result of fine growing and exhibiting of plants the following persons have won Sweepstakes Awards from the AVSA for State, Council or Regional Societies:

WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF AFRICAN VIOLET CLUBS, Mrs. Janice Grande

NUTMEG STATE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, Mrs. Jessie Crisafulli

NEW YORK STATE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, Ms Ruth W. Meek

NEW AFFILIATES

Two new clubs have hitched their wagon to the AVSA star and are now affiliates in good standing. They are:

SUNDOWN AVS OF BAKERSFIELD, CA, Mrs Ruth Jo McCoy, Rt 1 Box 580, Arvin, CA 93203

BLOOMING AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, Mrs Bea Temkin, 212 Bright Creek Lane, Oceanside, CA 92054

SOMETHING NEW

Something new has been added to the AVSA awards packet. It is an instruction sheet for Show Chairmen. With this sheet we hope to give the chairman a clear understanding of the procedure to follow in filling out and returning the award forms to the Affiliate Chairman. From now on a single mailing from the Show Chairman should be sent to this chairman. This will eliminate the sometimes two or three different letters coming into my office. It will

also help the judges by relieving them of the duty of sending back the SSA award sheets and the AVSA Collection award results. Both of these forms will be placed in a sealed envelope and given to the Show Chairman who will mail it with all of the other show materials back to the Affiliate Chairman. When you receive this sheet please read it carefully and then follow the instructions. It will surely eliminate unnecessary work and will aid in keeping more accurate files on show data.

Austin, Texas is the place, April 13, 14, 15, 1978 is the time. You all come!!

Revised Edition Of AVSA Handbook

Melva B. Nelson
AVSA President

You probably noticed a short paragraph in the September AVM announcing Ruth Carey's transfer of her copyright on the African Violet Handbook for Judges and Exhibitors to AVSA.

This most gracious action by Mrs. Carey was quite a surprise and was accepted with sincere appreciation and thanks. The Handbook is of such inestimable aid, not only to judges and exhibitors, but to any enthusiastic violet grower, that it is difficult to imagine not having a copy of the latest edition available for information.

The 1978 edition is now available at our Knoxville office. It includes all rules and regulations adopted by AVSA since publication of the 1975 edition.

The price remains at \$3.00, even though there has been a substantial increase in mailing costs since 1975. However, there will be no discount on quantity orders.

Please do not send your orders to Mrs. Carey as this will delay handling. Send orders direct to our Knoxville office. Make checks payable to AVSA.

FOR LARGE BLOOMS

If you want larger blooms try this: Once a month use one teaspoon of Dolomite Lime per two gallons of water for your violets.



COMING EVENTS

(ED. NOTE: Please use following style in sending your Coming Events to the Editor for publication in the African Violet Magazine. In this way no mistakes in dates will be made. Also check WHEN, WHAT, and WHERE)

MAR. 4-5 ARIZONA—Tucson AVS' horticultural and artistic exhibit at Christopher City, 3401 N. Columbus Blvd., Tucson. Mar. 4, 3-7 p.m.; Mar. 5, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission free. Betsy Evans, 4430 E. Presidio Place, Tucson, 85712; Phone 327-0271, for information.

MAR. 4-5 LOUISIANA—Baton Rouge AVS' annual show, "Violets, Vikings and Myths", at Harry Nelson Memorial Building on Louisiana State University campus, Baton Rouge. Open to public. Mar. 4, 2-6 p.m.; Mar. 5, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Mrs. Nick Tessitore, Jr., chairman.

MAR. 4-5 FLORIDA—Brevard AVS of Brevard County, FL to hold second annual show/sale, "Far East Discoveries", at Cocoa-Rockledge Garden Club, 1493 S. Flake Blvd., Rockledge. Admission free. Mar. 4, 2-8 p.m.; Mar. 5, 1-5 p.m.

MAR. 11-12 TEXAS—Houston Gesneriad Society's 2nd annual show/sale at Hermann Park Garden Center, Houston. Mar. 11, 3-6 p.m.; Mar. 12, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission free. Chairman, Mrs. Don Roose; cochairman, Mrs. Robert Riquelmy.

MAR. 11-12 FLORIDA—Haines City AVS' annual judged show/sale, "Violet Pow-Wow" at Haines City Civic Center, Haines City. Mrs. Warren P. Partain, Sr., show chairman, telephone 324-5737. Admission free.

MAR. 12 TEXAS—Red River AVS' annual show, "Carnival of Violets", at Broughton Street Community Center, Sherman.

MAR. 17-18 TEXAS—First AVS of Wichita Falls' annual spring show/sale, "Violet Reflections", at University United Methodist Church, 3405 Taft Boulevard. Mar. 17, 2:30-7 p.m.; Mar. 18, 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Mrs. Pat Dudley, chairman; Mrs. J. M. Walbrick, cochairman.

MAR. 17-18 TEXAS—First Arlington AVS' annual show/sale, "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling", in the amphitheater of the Forum 303 Shopping Mall, Arlington. Mar. 17, 3-9 p.m.; Mar. 18, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Mrs. W. H. Haugh, president; Mrs. Don Nichols, show chairman. Public invited. Admission free.

MAR. 17-18 TEXAS—Brazos Valley AVC's show/sale, "Texas—Roadway to Violets", at Manor East Mall, Bryan. Mrs. Mickey L. Ray, show chairman; Mrs. Don Phillips, cochairman.

MAR. 17-18 CONNECTICUT—Sparkling Waters AVS' judged show at the Minor Park Improvement Association Hall, 12 Fenwick Street, West Haven. Take Derby Avenue (New Haven) exit off Merritt Parkway, to Plainfield Ave. Plainfield winds and becomes Fenwick street. A large selection of plants and cuttings will be on sale. Mar. 17, 2-5:30 p.m.; Mar. 18, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

MAR. 18 ILLINOIS—Barrington Bloomers' cultural exhibit and slide presentation, "Violets, Facts and Fantasies", at Arlington

WHY NOT HAVE AN AVSA MEMBERSHIP TABLE IN YOUR SHOW?



Heights Memorial Library in the Dunton Room, 500 North Dunton, Arlington Heights. Slides to show growing, grooming propagation African violets, violets in flower arrangements and in decorating home. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. No admission.

MAR. 18-19 NEW YORK—Capital District AVS and AVS of Albany to sponsor annual show, "African Violets — Enjoy!" at Knights of Columbus Hall, 375 Ontario Street, Albany. Public invited.

MAR. 18-19 CALIFORNIA—San Mateo County AVS' 11th annual show, "Once Upon A Time", at Howard Johnson's, Bayshore Freeway at Whipple Avenue, Redwood City. Mar. 18, 1-8 p.m.; Mar. 19, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Frances Swope, chairman.

MAR. 18-19 LOUISIANA—Atchafalaya AVS' 3rd annual show/sale at Municipal Auditorium in Morgan City. Mar. 18, 2-5 p.m.; Mar. 19, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. George Ramirez, show chairman.

MAR. 29 MASSACHUSETTS—AVS of Pioneer Valley's silver anniversary party, 1 p.m. Slides of past shows and events to be shown. Joyce Kanton, secretary RSVP to Mrs. Catherine Derosia, president, 1-413-592-2837.

MAR. 31-APRIL 1 TEXAS—First Nighter AVS of Dallas' annual spring show/sale, "Violets For All Seasons", at Town East Mall, LBJ Fwy., Mesquite, TX. Mar. 31, 12 noon-10 p.m.; April 1, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Mrs. Paula Foster, show chairman, parking and admission free.

MAR. 31-APRIL 1 CALIFORNIA—The Pomona Valley AVS' 25th annual show, "Our Silver Celebration" at the Church of the Brethren, 2175 Bonita Ave., La Verne. Mrs. Wanda Jones, show chairman; Mrs. Betty Kelly, entry clerk; Mrs. Marj Jenny, judges chairman; Mrs. Sharon Lopez, publicity; Mrs. Pat Tussing, classification. Non-members invited to enter plants. Persons interested asked to contact Ms. Jones, 4069 Olive Hill Dr., Claremont, 91711, phone 714-621-2094. Mar. 31, 2-8 p.m.; April 1, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

MAR. 31-APRIL 1-2 MINNESOTA—AVS of Minnesota's annual show, "African Violets Around the World", at Har Mar Mall, Snelling Ave. & County Road, St. Paul. Mrs. Delores Paron, show chairman.

APRIL 1-2 TEXAS—Violet Harmony Club of Fort Worth's show, "Over the Rainbow", at Fort Worth Botanic Garden Center. Maxine V. Beam, president; Mrs. Mary Stallings, show chairman. April 1, 1-4:30 p.m.; April 2, 1-5:30 p.m. Admission free. Open to public.

APRIL 7-8 NEW YORK—AVS of Staten Island's 19th annual show, "Violet Magic", April 7, 3-10 p.m.; April 8, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. No admission. Open to public. Mrs. Adolph Gundlach, chairman; Mrs. Evelyn Lawless, cochairman. Mrs. Michael Cicero, president.

APRIL 7-8 TEXAS—Friendship Gesneriad and AVS of Wylie's 2nd annual show; "Gardens of Gesneriads", at First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. Marge Marino, show chairman. April 7, 2-9 p.m.; April 8, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

APRIL 8 NEBRASKA—Lincoln AVS annual show/sale, "No. 1—African Violets", at Gateway auditorium in the Gateway Shopping Center in Lincoln. Dr. Anne Vidaver and Fred Yuhl, cochairmen.

APRIL 8-9 CONNECTICUT—Naugatonic AVS' annual judged show/sale at Boothe Memorial Park, Stratford, Route 110. Admission free. April 8, 2-5 p.m.; April 9, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Eleanor Borgens, show chairman; Edna Roiurke, president.

APRIL 8-9 NEW YORK—Long Island AVS' 24th annual show, "Treasure Chest of Violets", at Rockville Centre Recreation and Community Center, 111 Oceanside Road, (north of Sunrise HY) Rockville Centre. April 8, 2-9 p.m.; April 9, 1-6 p.m. Miss Leila Egenites, 29 - 50 214th Place, Bayside, 11360, show chairman.

APRIL 8-9 NEW YORK—Utica AVS' annual show, "Saintpaulia Serenade" at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 1640 Genesee Street, Utica. Public invited. Mary Dimitriadis, show chairman.

APRIL 8-9 PENNSYLVANIA—AVS of Philadelphia's annual show, "Violets—Worth Their Weight in Gold", at Watertown Recreation Center, East Hartwell Lane, Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia. April 8, 1-6 p.m.; April 9, 12 noon-6 p.m. "E" Hansen and Jim Klawitter, cochairman. Public invited, admission free.

APRIL 9 ARKANSAS—Green Thumb AVC's annual violet show, "Clowning Around With Violets", at Root Elementary School, Fayetteville. Admission free. 1-4 p.m.

APRIL 22-23 CALIFORNIA—Capitol City AVS' 26th annual show, "Violets Faire", at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center, Sacramento. Jim Carpenter, show chairman; Frances Lazda, cochairman.

APRIL 22-23 OREGON—Portland AVS' annual show/sale at Woodmen of the World hall, 1847 S.E. Clinton St., Portland. Public invited to showing of latest in African Violet and Gesneriad culture. Admission 50 cents. April 22, 2-9 p.m.; April 23, 12 noon-6 p.m. For information contact Skipper Fontaine, 5881 Harrison, Milwaukie, OR 97222; Phone 503-654-8376.

APRIL 27-29 WISCONSIN—The Milwaukee AVS annual show/sale, "Broadway Melodies of 1978" starring Saintpaulia and co-starring The Gesneriad Family, at the Mayfair Shopping Center Mall, Milwaukee. Mrs. Jean Achauer, show chairman.

APRIL 28-29 TEXAS—First AVS of San Antonio's spring judged show/sale at East Court, North Star Mall, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Special AVSA exhibits showing participating in AVSA projects.

APRIL 28-30 WISCONSIN—Oconomowoc AVS' annual show/sale, "Raining Violets", at Olympica Shopping Center, 1 mile north on Oconomowoc exit Hwy 67, off I 94. Admission free. April 28, 2 p.m. April 29, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; April 30, 12 noon-4 p.m. Mrs. Edw. Rice, show chairman.

APRIL 28-30 ILLINOIS—Illinois AVS' 23rd annual convention/show at Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge, Urbana, to be hosted by Margaret Scott AVS of Champaign-Urbana. Exhibit of plants and designs, commercial sales, educational table with leaf sale, Ways & Means booth with baked goods, candies and crafts, and auction of

donated articles. Mattie Owings. AVS president, and Eileen Peer, chairman.

APRIL 29 TEXAS—NASA Area AVS' first judged show and second annual plant sale at Webster Civic Center, 311 Pennsylvania, Webster (south of Houston on IH 45 to NASA exit, then one block off NASA 1). 12 noon-5 p.m., Free admission, Becky Pinion, show chairman.

APRIL 29-30 CONNECTICUT—Silvermine AVS' 5th annual judged show, "Up With Violets" at Cranbury Elementary School, Knowlton Lane, Norwalk. Educational table, display of violets and other gesneriads, sale of fresh cut leaves, rooted cuttings, plants. George Holomakoff of South Norwalk, show chairman. April 29, 2-8 p.m.; April 30, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (To reach Cranbury school, take Merritt Parkway to Exit 40 North, then north on Route 7 to Friendly's Ice Cream, turn right on Kensett Avenue to end, turn rt. on Grumman Ave., take first left (Knowlton Lane).

APRIL 29-30 CONNECTICUT—Thimble Islands AVS' annual show, "Thimble Islands Violets" at Willoughby Wallace Memorial Library in Stony Creek. Mrs. George Riccietelli, chairman. April 29, 2-5 p.m.; April 30, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

APRIL 29-30 WASHINGTON—Seattle AVS' 25th annual show, "Silver Celebration" at Eames Theater, Pacific Science Center, Seattle Center, Seattle. Open to public. Admission free. April 29, 1-8 p.m.; April 30, 12 noon-6 p.m. Rebecca R. Ukura, publicity chairman.

APRIL 29-30 CONNECTICUT—Windsor AVS' judged show/sale, "A Basket of Joy", at Windsor Public Library, 323 Broad Street, Windsor. Open to public. Admission free. Barbara Clark, publicity chairman.

APRIL 29-30 NEW YORK—AVS of Syracuse' annual show, "The Blooming Show", at Rockefeller United Methodist Church on Nottingham Road, Syracuse. Public invited. Admission \$1. April 29, 1-9 p.m.; April 30, 1-7 p.m. John Carpenter, show chairman; Doris Weld, president.

MAY 4-6 CALIFORNIA—AVS of South Bay' spring show, "Violet Roundup", at Mayfield Mall, Mountain View. May 4, 2-9 p.m.; May 5, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; May 6, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission free. Mrs. Barbara Elkin, show chairman; Mrs. Anne Kadack, staging chairman.

MAY 5-6 VIRGINIA—Old Dominion AVS of Northern Virginia's 18th annual show, "African Violet Star Wars", at Tysons Corners Shopping Center, Town Hall, located in McLean. May 5, 6-9 p.m.; May 6, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Call Mrs. J. Rodriguez, 893-3985, for further information.

MAY 6-7 NEW YORK—New York City AVS' spring show, "Violets in the Big Apple", at the Horticultural Society, 124 W. 58th Street, New York.

MAY 6-7 IOWA—Evening AVC of Des Moines to hold spring show, "Violet Carnival" at 542 Fourth Street, Des Moines. Mrs. Marie Ilstrup, show chairman. Mrs. Roscoe E. Jones, publicity chairman.

MAY 6-7 UTAH—The AVS of Utah's judged show, "Sharing Happiness", at Garden Club Center, 1602 East 2100 South, Salt Lake City. May 6, 1-6 p.m.; May 7, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monte Pearce of Layton, show chairman.

MAY 6-7 NEW YORK—North Shore AVS of Long Island's 20th

annual judged show/sale, "Once Upon A Time", at St. Paraskevi Greek Church, Pulaski Road and Shrine Place, Greenlawn, LI. May 6, 2-8 p.m.; May 7, 1-7 p.m. Mrs. Elaine Grasso, show chairman; Mrs. Jane Weber, cochairman. Mrs. Patricia E. Taylor, president.

MAY 11-12 MARYLAND—West End AVC to hold annual show/sale, "The Vanity of Violets", at Christian Temple, Edmondson Ave. and Academy Road, Catonsville, Baltimore. Proceeds from sale to go to Cerebral Palsy Development Center in Catonsville. Mrs. F. C. Bailey, show chairman.

MAY 12-13 NEW JERSEY—The AVC of Trenton to hold annual show, "Violets for our 30th Anniversary" in Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Dot Warman and Gladys Minschwaner, show chairmen.

MAY 12-13 MARYLAND—Baltimore AVC's annual show/sale, "Violets Under the Stars", at Hutzler's Department Store, York and Dulaney Valley Roads, in Towson. May 12, 3-9 p.m.; May 13, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Free admission. Betty Lages, chairman, assisted by Elsie Peters. Proceeds of plant sale to go to School of the Chimes for the Mentally Retarded.

MAY 12-13 WISCONSIN—Evening Violeteers Club's annual Mother's Day plant sale, "Mother's Favorite Houseplant", at Crossroads Mall, Wausau, Hwy. 29-51. May 12, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; May 13, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mrs. C. Cramer, club president.

MAY 12-13 OHIO—Town and Country AVS of Painesville to hold annual show/sale, "My Lady Saintpaulia: This Is Your Life", at the Great Lakes Mall, Route 84, in Mentor. Open to public. May 12, 1-9 p.m.; May 13, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Kathy Smith, chairman.

MAY 12-13 OHIO—Parmatown AVC's annual show at Parmatown Shopping Center on Ridgewood drive in Parma. Mary Pilck, show chairman; Roberta Klimo, cochairman. May 12, 1-9:30 p.m.; May 13, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

MAY 12-13 TENNESSEE—Mid South AVC's annual show/plant sale, "A Party With Violets", at Southland Mall. Public invited. Admission free. 10 a.m.-10 p.m.. Mrs. Paul Reschke, show chairman.

MAY 20-21 CALIFORNIA—AVS of San Francisco to hold 23rd annual show/sale, "Celebrate With Violets", at Hall of Flowers and Garden Center in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. Admission free. May 20, 2-5 p.m.; May 21, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Anne Daniels, publicity chairman.

JUNE 3-4 COLORADO—Rocky Mountain AV Council's 17th annual show/sale, "Violet Planets", at Denver Botanic Gardens. Denver. Public invited; admission free. June 3, 1-4:30 p.m.; June 4, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Mrs. Dot Roesch, show chairman; Mrs. Bonita Hutcheson, vice-chairman.

JUNE 10-11 CALIFORNIA—Suburban AV Friends' 3rd annual show/sale, "Sailing Along With Violets", at San Mateo Garden Center, Parkside Way and Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo. Marge Benson, show chairman. Free admission. June 10, 2-5:30 p.m.; June 11 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

OCT. 9-10 OHIO—Ohio State Convention/Show, "Memories of Days Gone By", at Kingwood Center in Mansfield. Mrs. Henry Bircher, show chairman.

Please send **COMING EVENTS** to the Editor—not to the Knoxville office!

WHAT? A SHOW? AW, FORGET IT!

Gert Buckley
1299 Chelsea Rd.
Wantagh, NY 11793

How did the seed become planted in our minds to have a show? By every yardstick it was a foolhardy idea. Our club was just not ready; 4/5 of our members had never entered a plant in a show. We had only the dimmest inkling of what was involved in presenting a show.

The seed flourished, nurtured by a growing determination. We were like sponges, soaking up available information on show related subjects. The Judges' Handbook became a kind of Bible. Those of us, who commonly used our memory as an excuse for forgetting, could cite the exact page to check, when a question arose. Speakers at the monthly meetings had a captive audience. The pre-meeting workshop was a beehive of activity. At least ten plants were brought to each meeting, for judging in the "Little Show".

We worked as one; not with a juggernaut force, but with a slow steady pace that increased as our knowledge grew. Of course, there were problems, there were setbacks, there were hurts. But nothing that we, acting and thinking as one, could not resolve.

And then came showtime! We did have a show. And our show attained its goal. It was staged by the Levittown African Violet Society of Long Island, NY. It was pleasing to the eye. It increased knowledge and stimulated interest in the growing of African violets. More important, we shared a lovely, beautiful experience with each guest.

Never again were we to say: "What? A Show? Aw, forget it!"

We have all basked in the ensuing praise. We have all effervesced with jubilation. We have all re-dedicated our purpose for next year.

What we have not been vocal about has far greater meaning; such as our increased understanding and tolerance; our recognition that each person is a well of creativity; our realization of the common need for approval. We know how firm is the hand of friendship. Everything that we have gleaned can only add to our own growth and completeness as a person.

We did not earn an AVSA rosette. Hopefully, we will next year. But, in our mind's eye, each of us proudly wears an individual rosette. We look at each other and smile.

See inside front cover to find out how AVSA carries on its business.

YOUR LIBRARY

Harvey L. Stone
51 Peach Highlands
Marblehead, MA 01945



Have you made those convention and hotel reservations for our 32nd annual AVSA convention in Austin, TX yet? If not, there is still time, but do hurry as it is getting late. If you need the forms to fill out and send in, they are in your January 1978 AVSA Magazine. The Convention Committee is going all-out to show us their famous TX hospitality!

We expect to realize a new slide program featuring the top prize winners at the Austin convention and hope to have a new program of slides furnished by the growers and hybridizers and coordinated by Ethel Champion, showing what is new in African violets for 1978. These will be announced in the June 1978 AVSA magazine, and should be available at the Knoxville office by July 1.

With the ever-increasing number of members, the slide programs are more in demand than ever. This makes it more important than ever to closely follow the directions enclosed with each slide program sent

out of Knoxville. Please handle the slides as carefully as you would your own! Make sure your projector tray is empty and that all slides received are repacked in the mailing box after your showing. Wrap the box securely in heavy brown wrapping paper and mail it in accordance with the enclosed directions via first class mail no later than the first business day after the scheduled showing. If, for any reason, you are unable to show the program on the scheduled date, the slides must be mailed the next business day. We are still disappointing clubs who have firm reservations for specific programs because other clubs are not returning them promptly. **PLEASE!**

We still need photographers to work Thursday night/Friday morning at Austin as well as assistants to keep records and carry the plants back and forth. How about it? Won't you write in and volunteer? It may be work but it is fun, too! Let's hear from you. See you in Austin, TX?

Losing Club Members — Why?

Mrs. R. E. Schroeder
Dwight, IL

Are you wondering WHY your club loses members? Having a problem keeping them? They just drop out or they decide not to rejoin, without any whys, ifs or buts.

Could it be that you don't satisfy your members needs with enough information on the culture of the African violet? Could it be that they feel left out or they are not involved enough? Could it be that they don't know what's going on and are afraid to ask? It is easy enough to get involved and then forget there are other members that need to be considered.

Try to find out WHY you lose a club member. It may be a simple reason or just a lack of communication.

I wonder WHY many times. I send out renewal notices, when memberships need to be renewed. After a few weeks, if I don't receive the renewal I send a special little reminder with a note. Some very graciously answer; others thank me for the reminder

to renew, as we all have times when we mislay a notice and then it is forgotten. Then there are some members you never hear from again, and I wonder WHY. I would like to have some response, regardless. It's like losing an old friend — drops out of sight, never hear from them again and you do wonder WHY.

The ILLINOIS AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY is again searching for new members. Join NOW, and you will be in time to enter your plants in our spring show, or just to come to our meeting and see the show. Write me, MRS. R. E. SCHROEDER, 217 ANDREW AVE., DWIGHT, IL 60420. Do it today. I'll be waiting to hear from you thru-out the States. Everyone is welcome to join.

KEEP PLANTS CLEAN

A warm water fine spray is beneficial. Use a soft brush to remove any dust and dirt particles.

African Violets

"Grow on You"

Jane Joy
Morgan City, LA

When Sylvia Duay went to a carport sale and happened to buy a few African violets, little did she know that she was to contract the contagious African violet fever that is not partial to class, age, sex, or religion.

For a year after she purchased the violets the velvety, green leaf plants remained in their original two and one-half inch containers on a lone window sill where they luckily survived. Occasionally they were watered (when Sylvia remembered) and thanks to Mother Nature's guiding hand, Sylvia had put them in a window with the proper sunlight to sustain the plants.

Realizing her neglect, Sylvia deduced that "They're not as fragile as I thought." Then one day she decided that she wanted her plants to bloom so she went to a nursery and bought fertilizer. She mixed the fertilizer with water and began to water her plants when they dried out and much to her excitement, after many months of anticipation, her plants began to bloom.

The prettier her plants became the more enthusiastic Sylvia became so she bought 40 plants. Shortly after Sylvia's aunt became ill and gave all of her violets to Sylvia, totaling 100, which really started her in the African violet business.

Since then Sylvia has had to add on a room to house her violets which now number around 350. At one time, she said, she had 500 but since her husband allows her to keep the violets only in the violet room she had to sell or give away a few for lack of space.

Sylvia said that her hobby "is good therapy because you can get in there and start potting and forget problems, but it's bad for housework." Another wonderful asset, she said, are the many people to meet, many of whom become close friends.

Sylvia also added that the hobby "is as expensive as you want to make it. It doesn't have to be expensive."

For her violets Sylvia said that she has an eight-foot, three tier stand and a four-foot, three tier stand and that each tier has fluorescent lights that are 12 inches above the plants. She said that her husband built them for her in her special room.

Caring for the plants is a matter of providing enough light, water and proper soil, and tender loving care.

"The roots have to breathe" so the soil cannot be packed but must instead be porous, she said.

She contended that one of the main problems peo-



NEW DIMENSION—Sylvia Duay, homemaker, housewife and mother added a new dimension in her daily life when she became a strong advocate and grower of African violets. Here she is shown with some of her 350 plants that she houses in her violet room in her home. (Daily Review photo)

ple have is that they tend to overwater and eventually drown and kill their plants. The soil must stay damp. When the top soil feels dry, she said, it's about time to water which, for an average plant, occurs about every four to five days.

When watering, she added, always fertilize but do not over fertilize. Always put a little less fertilizer than is called for and don't skip fertilizing because the plant will be shocked when fertilizing is resumed.

The plants must have strong sunlight but not hot sunlight, she continued. If the plants are kept in the sunlight instead of under a fluorescent light, during the summer it is better to pull the plants back from the window a little so that they will not be in danger of receiving hot sunlight. If using a fluorescent light, 12 to 14 hours a day is necessary, she said.

When trying to reproduce a plant either water or soil can be used. Cut a stemmed leaf about one and one-half inches long with a sharp knife or razor blade at a slant, she said, then let it dry for an hour or so. If using soil put it in a shallow pot about 2 and one-half inches in diameter and make a diagonal insert in the soil with a pencil. Then, she continued, put the stem in the opening, pushing the soil around it and water and wait.

She said that it takes from six weeks to three mon-

ths for the new plantlets to grow. After four to 10 plants have appeared it is time to pull them apart and repot, she added.

The weak ones should be discarded and the strong plants should be planted separately in two and one-half inch pots. Then, she added, let them grow until they bloom, which usually occurs between three and six months.

When the plants become larger it is time once again to repot in larger containers ranging in size from three and one-half to four inches. Plants in these pots grow to about twelve inches in diameter before the bottom leaves must be broken off and the plant replanted after shaving off the bottom part of the plant. In this way, she said, the plant remains about the same size.

Sylvia is a member of the Atchafalaya Violet Society, and the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

To anyone interested in African violets Sylvia has a bit of advice. "People should get as many as they can take care of and enjoy without it becoming a burden."

They Came to Look— They Stayed to Buy!

*Mrs. Marjorie Dill
Ria Old Brunswick Road
Gardiner, ME 04345*

Recently I was asked to show my violets at an Arts & Crafts Fair near here. At the fair, plants could be displayed and sold. After agreeing to go (I had never shown my plants like this before) and selecting which plants to take, I was at a loss as how the plants would be carried by persons who bought them. The show was in the Armory and they would be doing a lot of walking around and a box would be too cumbersome to carry around.

I finally came upon the idea of using a piece of stiff cardboard with a hole the size of a pot in it to keep the pot from slipping around. I then enclosed it in a clear plastic bag with holes for air and fastened with elastic. Not only did this prove an easy way to carry them, but other people saw them and came to look and buy—especially the ones with variegated leaves which we do not see around here very often.

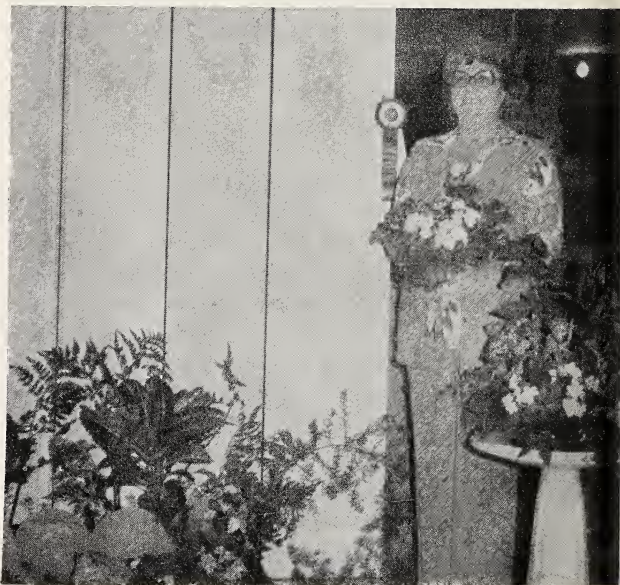
One woman said she had read about variegated leaves, but this was the first time she had seen one "face to face".

The most rewarding event of that day was the look on a little boy's face as he made a purchase of one for his mother on Mother's Day. He was so serious.

So you see, you can really be ingenious if pressed hard enough.



AT 7th SHOW — Here are the top winners in the Shreveport (LA) AVS' 7th annual show: (L to R) Mrs. Brian Dickerson, AVSA Best Collection (Gold Rosette), 'Targeteer', 'Eventful', 'Modern Jewel', horticultural sweepstakes, overall sweepstakes; Mrs. Jon Morris, Queen of Show, 'Peach Frost', best mini, 'Admiration'; Mrs. Jules Quintermont, President's Award, 'Garnet Elf', best semimini, 'LaRosa'; Mrs. C. D. Roberts, Princess, 'Fashionaire' best aquamatic planter. Other winners were Mrs. Paul Whatley, artistic plantings sweepstakes, best artistic design, "End of the Rainbow", mini-cigar box arrangement, "Rainbows"; Mrs. Frank Rodie, design Tricolor, "Birds Fly Over Rainbow", best terrarium.



BLUE RIBBON WINNER — Mrs. Warren B. Partain, Sr., chairman of the Haines City AVS' annual show in Haines City, FL, is pictured with 'Shining Plumage', a blue ribbon winner. Mrs. Partain and Mrs. Guy Thrower were winners of the two AVSA Awards with 'Double Black Cherry', 'Happy Harold', 'Top Dollar' and 'Autum Sky'. Mrs. Ernest DiLorenzo was winner in the artistic division and Mrs. Cecil Schroder was sweepstakes winner.

African Violets — His Specialty

Ever since Willy Braun became the only male member of the African Violet Society of Utah, he's been getting his share of blue ribbons. Even before he became a member, he observed his wife, Emma, coaxing plants, grooming them, and getting them in the right condition to enter in the society's annual show. In fact, he either participated in or watched preparations for the big event.

His wife was a member of the African Violet Society a long time before he ever dreamed of joining. She was the one who inspired his present enthusiasm for indoor gardening.

"Emma passed away in 1973" he explains in his delightful accent (he is a native of Strasbourg). "She had always loved these little plants and had taken such good care of them. I couldn't let them die."

So he took over. And soon he found that he was really enjoying the hobby and it was filling many of his lonely hours.

He kept on paying dues to the society, and then started going to monthly meetings at the Garden Center.

"I never intended to become a member," he says with a grin. "But everybody was so nice to me and the meetings were so interesting that I thought, 'Why not!'"

At the meetings of the group, tips on raising violets are exchanged. Members talk about the latest indoor gardening trends, and they often give each other leaves so that the size of individual collections can be increased.

Willy tenderly looks after these little leaves — the "starts" of new plants — keeping them on a table close to the kitchen window.

As for the full-grown specimens, they adorn a special green and gold cart.

The cart has a place of honor in the immaculate living room (Willy does all his own housework, and there isn't a speck of dust anywhere).

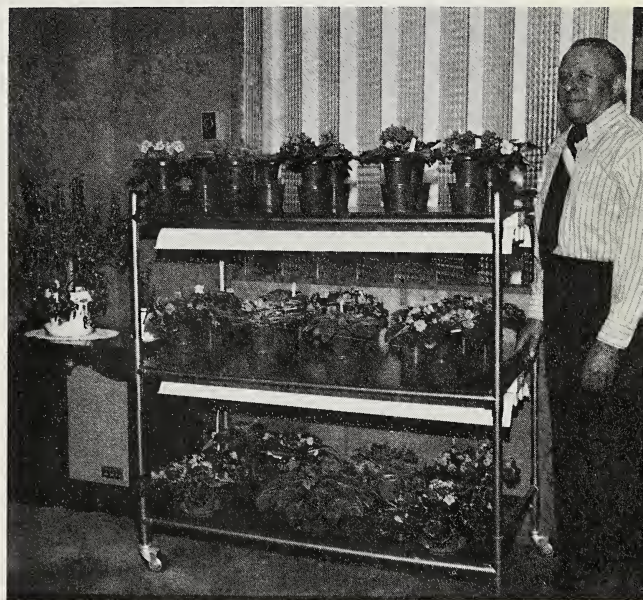
Featuring several shelves, the cart is, equipped with grow-lights. But he seldom uses them. The filtered westerly light from his big front window does the trick. ("Always avoid direct sunlight when you're growing African violets," warns Willy.)

When he feels the plants need a "tonic," he gives them a little fertilizer — but he never overdoes it.

As for watering, Willy says never, never use cold water, as it will shock the plant. He also advocates the wick-watering method because "it eliminates guesswork."

Above all, the indoor gardening enthusiast believes in keeping plants, containers and all implements perfectly clean.

In fact, his number one tip for novices is: "Observe



HAS GREEN THUMB—Willy Braun, only male member of the AVS of Utah, is shown here with some of his African violets in his home where this green and gold cart holds a place of honor. A retired blacksmith and welder, who came to the United States 26 years ago, he really enjoys his hobby and finds it fills many of his lonely hours since his wife, Emma, passed away.

good sanitation measures. Plants are like people, they thrive on cleanliness."

Growing African violets brings a satisfaction and contentment to this retired blacksmith and welder, who came to the United States 29 years ago. He admits he talks to his violets.

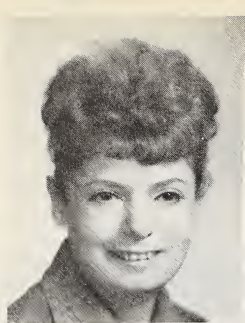
Maybe that's the secret of his success. But no matter, his plants seem to be happy and healthy as can be — fairly bursting out of their pots with big blooms and beautifully-shaped leaves.

To tell the truth, many of the ladies in the African Violet Society of Utah are green with envy about Willy's green thumb.

"He has some really lovely violets, and we all have to work hard to keep up with him," confides one woman.

GROOMING PLANTS

Remove all spent blossoms by cutting with small, sharp scissors. Pulling may result in the entire bloom stalk coming off. Brush foliage with a soft brush to remove dust particles.



Musings from the "Mini-Mam"

Mrs. Sidney (Ellie) Bogin
Chairman Miniature and Semimini Class
39 Boyd Street
Long Beach, NY 11561

FALL SHOW WINNERS

New Jersey Council of AV Clubs

- Best Mini, 'Baby Pink' - Mable Hudson
- Best Semi, 'Little Chrissy' - Edward Bradford
(3rd best in show)

New York State AVS

- Amateur
- Best Mini - 'Denim Blue' - Millie Nordonne
- Best Semi - 'Cherry Hill' - Helen Strnad
- Best Annalee Violetry and best Long Island Origination - 'Irish Angel' - Ellie Bogin

Commercial

- Best Mini - 'Little Delight' - Sandra Lex
- Best Semi - 'Little Jim' - Sandra Lex

Nutmeg State AVS

- Best Mini - 'Bright Eyes' - Jessie Crisafulli
- Best Semi - 'Cruncher' - Mollie Kosick

I am writing this column on a cold wintry day in November. We just had the heat turned on again after 36 hours without gas. Dog hairs in the thermostat caused it to turn off! My plants look all right but it will take a few weeks for any damage to show up.

On a day like this it is nice to project my thoughts forward into spring and all the beautiful violet shows awaiting. Especially, the AVSA Convention in Austin, Texas. Sid and I were married in Texas in April, 35 years ago.

Violet shows are not only for the public. All of a club's workshops and programs are geared to this big event. It is a showcase for all that you have learned and hopefully practiced. Without your plants there would not be a show. For you neophytes, put away your fears and get your plants ready. The ones you leave at home "are so much better than what you see".

Make sure your leaves are brushed and up until two weeks before the show, you can give your plants a nice warm spraying at your kitchen sink. Make sure they dry out of the sun. Fluorescents won't bother them. If residue fertilizer or insecticide stains have not been left on too long, they can be removed by using Ascorbic Acid (obtained from drugstore),

1/2 tsp. to a quart of warm water. Apply with a gentle sponging of the leaves.

Remove any secondary or baby leaves. Make sure the bottom row of leaves in your rosette are the largest. Check for dead flower nubs (cut them off close to the peduncle stem). Gently push your flowers up between the leaves and see that they are evenly distributed.

Put your name and the plant name on a piece of tape on the pot and cover with aluminum foil, dull side out. Make your foil cover on an empty pot that is the same size and then you can easily slip it onto your plant without disturbing a leaf.

I used to use crumpled paper around the plants to keep them from moving when being carried to the show. Cleaner's plastic makes a wonderful bed for the little plants and is much softer for them to nestle in. Put enough in the box and the plants will never move.

Open boxes can be slipped into plastic garbage or waste bags. There is still a chill in the air when some of the earlier shows open.

I hope this column has been helpful in your growing and grooming. Good luck and don't forget to send me the names of the winning minis and semis and their exhibitors.

The 1975 Miniature and Semiminiature Culture and Variety list is available from me at the price of \$2.00. PLEASE MAKE CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS OUT TO AVSA. The 1976 and 1977 supplements will be included. If you already have the list and just want either or both supplements, send me a large self addressed stamped envelope. PLEASE DO NOT STAPLE CHECKS TO THE LETTER.

LIMP LEAVES

If you buy or are given leaves and by the time you arrive home, they have gone limp, revive them by laying them face down in a dish of tepid water for a few hours. Then they will become crisp enough to plant in your favorite way.

SEGREGATE NEW PLANTS

Segregate all newly acquired plants and leaves from your main collection (at least four to six weeks) until you have determined that they are free of pests and diseases.



"Happy Easter" by Mrs. Allen Bump, Columbus, Ohio

(Photo by Larry Phillips)

Create Beautiful World With African Violets

*Lee McCall
Sarasota, FL*

"One of the reasons I was determined to raise African violets was because everyone kept telling me they had beautiful violets up north but couldn't grow them in Florida", explained J. Wayne McFarland, who helped organize the Sarasota County AVS and his mother, Mrs. Ruby McFarland, was elected first president. His wife, Ruth, assists him in caring for the vast collection housed in their home in South Gate, FL.

McFarland, (formerly an evangelical pastor, and now owner of a moving company) talked with experts from Texas and came up with a way to grow them in Florida. And they bloom all the time, McFarland added.

The breathtaking panorama of color in the McFarland home is proof of his success in raising violets.

McFarland insists that raising violets need not be complicated and time-consuming if basic steps in care are taken.

"It's a wonderful hobby for older people," added Ruth. "They don't require a whole lot of care once they're set up and they're not too heavy to lift."

McFarland attributes his success to the type of soil, the method of feeding and watering and the fact that his plants get just the right amount of light.

He uses a plastic planter which waters plants automatically from a self-contained reservoir, ensuring the correct amount of moisture.

Some plants can be left up to five weeks without refilling the planter.

He also uses constant feed fertilizer (15-30-15 houseplant formula), one fourth strength. This is used with the water which is kept in the planter.

An alternative to the automatic watering planter is a glass jar filled with the liquid fertilizer and topped with a 2½ to 3½ inch plastic pot holding the plant. A core braided cord (wick) is immersed in the liquid, threaded through the hole in the bottom of the pot up through the soil and back to the bottom of the pot. This "wick" feeds the violet and moistens it regularly. When transplanting a leaf cutting or repotting, McFarland uses fish emulsion rather than fertilizer.

"A lot of people use pots that are too big," said McFarland, "they actually have to be root bound to

bloom."

The plants are grown semi-hydroponically. The soil is a special blend of a perlite and peat moss base with the trace elements (nutrients) needed. It should be loosely packed when potting the plant with a layer of gravel on the bottom.

Violets need lots of light but not direct sun light. McFarland suggests a north or east location, as close to the window as possible because of the wide overhangs in most Florida homes.

He prefers artificial light, and uses fluorescent grow lights above his stands which he keeps lit about 12 hours a day.

Plants should be treated for insects or diseases and dried blooms or leaves should be removed.

Violets may be propagated by leaf cuttings or separating as sucker from the mother plant. The sucker is planted in African violet soil with perlite added and moistened with fish emulsion.

Several leaf cuttings are generally planted in a pot half filled with gravel, the other half filled with perlite and vermiculite.

The McFarlands have developed different varieties from mutations but have not registered them.

"The ideal violet plant has no neck, a single crown and a symmetrical wheel-like shape," said McFarland.

"Each wheel of leaves produces blooms and after they die back, there are new leaves. Eventually you get a "neck" or longer stem and this can simply be planted deeper or taken off and re-rooted. My mother has a plant we gave her 30 years ago."

Violets range in price from \$2.50 to \$35, for blue-ribbon show plants.

The McFarlands had a hard time choosing a favorite. "They're all so different and we like them all," said McFarland. They are particularly fond of 'Blue Bell' and 'Pink Innocence' and a 'Pink Brocade' which has variegated leaves.

"This is really just a hobby," said McFarland. "But some classes at Vo-Tech come here and I give lectures to the garden clubs.

"I think the rewarding thing is seeing them bloom," said Ruth. "When they come into bloom it's like they're rewarding you for all the care you've given them."

Three Steps in Potting Violets

Wayne McFarland shows how to wick an African violet properly . . . McFarland, who owns a moving company in Sarasota, FL has some 2,000 plants he cares for, assisted by his wife, Ruth.

According to McFarland here are the necessary steps.

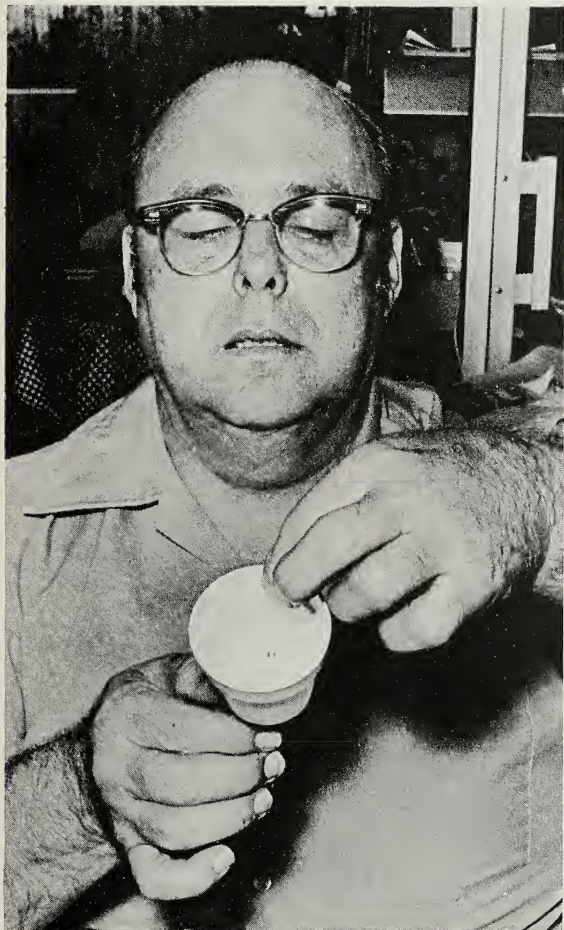


Photo 1

In Photo 1, McFarland threads a wick or braided cord through a hole in the bottom of the planter. This wick makes it possible for the plant to stay moist without being over-watered.

REMOVE SUCKERS

Remove suckers from your plants. Allowing a sucker to remain will distort the plant's shape. And a sucker, too, could eliminate your plant from being considered for an award. A nutpick or sharpened pencil is a good tool for removing suckers.

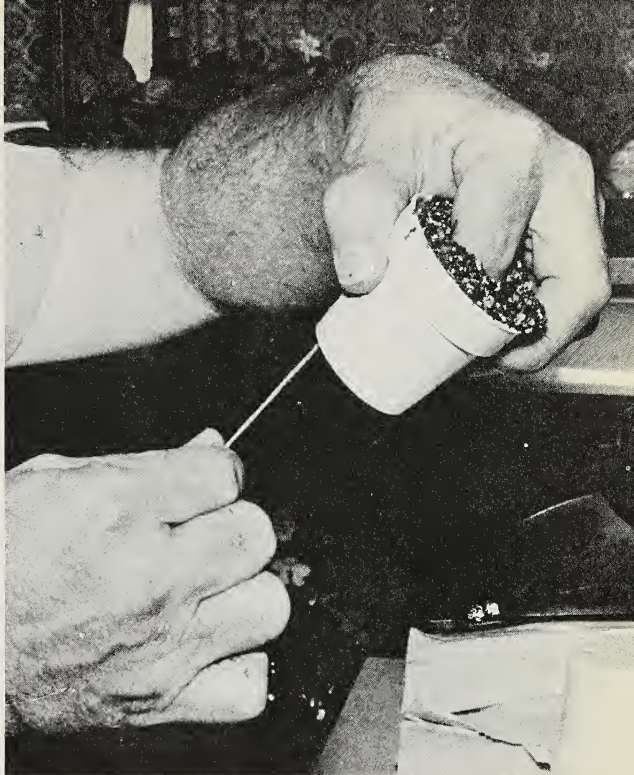


Photo 2

In Photo 2, McFarland makes a hole in the soil mixture while the wick is held tight.



Photo 3

In Photo 3, the violet is placed in the soil after which the pot is placed on top of a container with water so the wick can pick up moisture for the plant. (Photos by Jim Townsend, photographer for Sarasota Herald-Tribune)



BAKER'S

AFRICAN VIOLETS
TUCKER, GEORGIA

OFFERS FOUR
NEW SELECTIONS

(Photos furnished
by grower)

HOT LIPS

TEENY WEENY



**DIPPITY
DOO**



ZANY



BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND

*Mrs. L. F. Lidiak
4503 Sinclair
Austin, TX 78756*

Spring is here again — which means that when you read this another AVSA fiscal year will have become history. Obviously, since I am writing this in November, the final total for Boyce Edens Research Fund is far from complete; but certainly the picture looks very bright, thanks to you. In addition to the portion of the Commercial Members dues automatically diverted to research and the continued support of those affiliates individuals who have given so faithfully, there are many new donors joining the ranks.

Better African violets are most important to all of us. This means hardier plants, bigger blooms, better color, and *ad infinitum*. Of course, all of this adds up to one conclusion — research is needed! I hope that you will take a little refresher course with me, and read two very important articles in the AVM. The first is September, 1974, Vol. 27 #4, p. 10; and the second is September, 1975, Vol. 28, #4, p. 50. Both articles are reports by Frank Tinari, Chairman, Research Committee, AVSA, and give an insight to the most important research being conducted on a two-year \$6,000 Boyce Edens Research sponsored grant at Penn State University. The project director, Dr. Richard C. Craig, Associate Professor of Plant Breeding, gave a most interesting presentation at the Atlanta Convention. He outlined the work that had already been completed, and the big challenge that still lay ahead — I only wish that each of you could have seen and heard it.

AVSA President, Melva Nelson, has recently reported that the Research Committee felt that Dr. Craig's work merited additional support. As a result of the urgency of the need, the AVSA Executive Board approved a third-year allotment for this project.

Enthusiastic membership support coupled with a judicious decision by the Research Committee and the Executive Board have resulted in AVSA extending meaningful support to a promising project through Boyce Edens Research Fund sponsorship.

Contributions made from September 27, 1977 to November 26, 1977.

Central Connecticut Saintpaulia Club.....\$ 10.00
Frances F. Anderson in memory of
Ann Sedgwick..... 5.00

Memorial to Ann Sedgwick from members of her family.....	55.37
Edith V. Peterson in memory of Mrs. Ed Anschutz' father.....	10.00
San Mateo County (CA) AVS.....	15.00
The Pied Pipers AVC, St. Louis, MO.....	5.00
Saintpaulia Society, MO.....	50.00
Mrs. Wayne W. Schroeder in memory of Mrs. Mary S. Garrity.....	10.00
Red River (TX) AVS.....	5.00
North Shore AVS of Long Island, NY.....	10.00
Mrs. Wayne W. Schroeder in memory of Dr. Thomas B. McKneely.....	10.00
Mid Day Violeeters, Oconomowoc, WI.....	5.00
AVS of Pensacola, FL.....	10.00
AVC of Greater Atlanta, GA.....	10.00
Springfield (MO) Chapter of AVSA, Inc....	5.00
Bluemound Violet Club, WI.....	5.00
AVS of San Francisco, CA in memory of Helene Scott.....	16.00
Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Chase in memory of Mrs. Mary S. Garrity.....	10.00
AV Study Club of Birmingham, AL.....	5.00
First AVC of West Allis, WI.....	5.00
AVS of Utah.....	10.00
Fort Worth (TX) AVS in memory of Mrs. W. B. Collup.....	10.00
Illinois AVS, Inc.....	25.00
AVS of Utah in memory of Mrs. Inez Weyland.....	10.00
Town and Country AVC, Minot, ND in celebration of 20th year.....	5.00
Spring Branch (TX) AVC.....	100.00
Night Owl AVC, Arlington, TX in lieu of speaker's fee to Mrs. T. W. Padgett.....	5.00
San Mateo County (CA) in memory of Adeline Barta.....	5.00
Hi Hopes AVC, St. Louis, MO.....	5.00
Trimount AVS (MA) in memory of their founder, Mrs. Mary S. Garrity.....	25.00
T.H.E. AVS, Birmingham, AL in memory of Kenneth Lee Schramm.....	5.00
AVS of Palo Alto, CA.....	10.00
The Rocky Potters VC, Denver, CO.....	25.00
T.H.E. AVS, Birmingham, AL in memory of Howard Gillespy.....	5.00
Masters City AVS, Augusta, GA.....	5.00
Greenville (SC) AVC.....	10.00
T.H.E. AVS, Birmingham, AL.....	5.00
Mr. and Mrs. H. Harold Baker in memory of Mrs. Mary S. Garrity.....	10.00
Jeanette and Ralph Foster in memory of Adeline Barta.....	10.00
Oconomowoc (WI) AVS.....	10.00
Patriot's AVS (MA) in memory of Phyllis Walsh.....	10.00

Wedgewood AVC, Rockford, IL in memory of Ray Halverson.....	50.00
AVS of San Francisco, CA in memory of Adeline Barta.....	16.75
AVS of Greater Kansas City in memory of Irvin Danly.....	15.00
AVS of East Bay, CA.....	10.00
Baltimore (MD) AVC.....	25.00
Violets on the Bayou, Napoleonville, LA....	5.00



SANTA CLARA SHOW — The San Jose Bicentennial Award (center) received by the Santa Clara AVS is pictured here (top photo) with 'Mary D' (left), first runner-up, and 'Yum Yum', (right) best in show at its 19th annual show. A total of 20 AVSA memberships were sold at the show which had Margaret Schantz as chairperson (bottom photo). Shown with Mrs. Schantz is Christine Wilcox, club president, (seated). Winners were: Best in Show, 'Yum Yum', first runner-up, 'Mary D', AVSA Gold Award 'Yum Yum'. 'Mary D' and 'Top Dollar', sweepstakes, best species, 'Confusa', best variegated foliage 'Yum Yum', best miniature 'Midget Mischief' best artistic planting on theme. "Violets in San Jose" President Christine Wilcox 2nd runner-up and best single 'Little Softie', Lue Strange; sweepstakes runner-up and best club project, 'Crimson Frost'; best unusual container, 'Mary D', Ruth Wolff; best gesneriad, Episcia 'Dianthiflora', Margo Schantz, best arrangement, Betty Lemas.



AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Mrs. Lucile Plaster, Chairman
8304 Suffolk Dr.
Shreveport, LA 71106

March has two holidays you might use to honor someone or some occasion, namely, EASTER and ST. PATRICK'S DAY. Then in May we have MOTHER'S DAY — all these dates are coming along begging to be noticed. A contribution remembering something or somebody is a beautiful and appropriate greeting to present at such times.

Be sure you send yours in.

WI Council of AVS, Madison, WI.....	\$25.00
AVS of Lower Bucks County, Morrisville, PA in memory of Mr. John Granda.....	10.00
Viva La Violet Club, O'Fallon, IL.....	10.00
San Mateo County AVS, Mountain View, CA	10.00
Desert AVS, Lancaster, CA in memory of Mrs. Effie Murray.....	5.00
Red River AVS, Sherman, TX.....	5.00
AVC of Greater Atlanta, Atlanta, GA.....	10.00
Desert AVS, Lancaster, CA, in memory of Jessie Plumlee.....	5.00
Violets on the Bayou AVS, Napoleonville, LA.....	5.00

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Melva Nelson, our AVSA president, is delighted to welcome additional African violet growers into the Life Membership circle.

They are Mrs. Roy Lockhart, P. O. Box 20051, Birmingham, AL; Angela L. Morris, 8716 Marty, Overland Park, KA 66212, Phyllis Mury, 835 Adams Drive, White Castle, LA 70788; Mrs. Ralph Cava, 1327 Belmont Ave., No. Haledon, NJ 07508; Mrs. J. H. Hudson, 2142 Campbell Rd., Houston, TX 77080; Janet Mercer Smith, #212 Northampton Place, 600 Airport Rd., Chapel Hill, NC 27514; Michael A. Bartholomew, Box 87, New Scotland, NY 12127.

Another of our Life Members, Ruth Roberts, is now Mrs. Ruth McCoy. She is making her home at Rt. 1, Box 580, Arvin, CA 93203.

LIGHT NECESSARY

Light is the critical factor in propagating leaves in a window. Windowsill growers have found that spring, summer and fall are better than winter in propagating leaves.



BELL RINGING FOOL

Hybridized by
Hazel Hebert
Nederland, Texas



See Story on Page 33 —————>



DENA D - Hybridized by Marie Dattalo, Groves, Texas

Hybridizes 'Bell Ringing Fool'

Hazel Hebert
2720 Avenue M
Nederland, TX 77627

Fools step in where angels fear to tread is an old adage that could be most applicable to the hybridizing of 'Bell Ringing Fool', my first hybrid pictured on page 32. It started soon after the Dixie Convention/Show was held in Beaumont. I was talking to Maude Cook of Beaumont. It was she who was instrumental in my becoming an AVSA member and a member of the Beaumont AVS.

Mrs. Cook was again urging me to hybridize. She has many beautiful varieties to her credit and she was telling me that she was trying again for a light blue cross. But so far, she had been unsuccessful.

Thinking maybe I could surprise her and get a good light blue, and at the same time see what this particular facet of African violets would do what leaf propagation hadn't done for me, I decided when I got home, I'd try my hand at hybridizing. I took some pollen from 'Blooming Fool', which was in full glory, and started to put it on 'Miriam Steel', then a white. But 'Miriam Steel' was past her glory and her blossoms appeared to be on their way out.

Right next to her was 'Bell Ringer', a large, good performer. So, rather than waste the pollen, it was carefully placed on only one blossom of 'Bell Ringer' in April 1974. I knew I wouldn't be interested in hybridizing because from what I had read and heard, it just took too long and too much space to plant, wait, etc. So I just wasn't interested.

But lo and behold, the pollen stuck! Pretty soon a big, fat seed pod began its life. My husband, who had had to retire because of health problems, shared his bedroom with the cart where the seed pod was developing. He was so attentive to it, and although he didn't share my hobby exactly, he was helpful and this hybridizing interested him.

Soon it was he that saw the plant was watered regularly, fed plant food, and turned to the light because he, too, was anxious to see what the result was. He had tried grafting three leaves and while he got many plantlets, each was like the parent plant. So naturally, he watched with interest to see what would happen here. It pleased me, too, that he was so interested in hybridizing.

The seed pod was picked in August 1974 and dried pinned to a curtain until September. Then I planted the seeds, with my husband watching over my

shoulder and my daring him to breathe. I was holding my breath, too, to keep the seeds from blowing away.

On Dec. 28, 1974, we potted up! Yes, my husband by this time was more than interested in seeing this thing through. So we potted up 24 of the strongest plantlets in small plastic medicine cups, collected from his visits in and out of the hospital.

From then on, we both "mother-henned" those plants, watching them daily, and waiting for the first one to bloom. I numbered these from 1 to 24. Soon there was not enough room to keep them all, so I started giving them away on the condition that I see the bloom before anyone of them was named. My husband and I had already decided that the best one would be named 'Bell Ringing Fool' after its parents.

We had lavenders, single and double; many double blues and purples. Only one seemed to have just a touch of darker blue on the top petals of a light lavender. This one plant has had perfect symmetry throughout its growth and continued through the third generation to reflect this bi-color and good symmetry.

So, after seeing the plants that friends had grown, we decided we would name this plant "Bell Ringing Fool". Of course, there were many plantlets after the initial 24 but none showed as many blooms to the stem or any difference from the parents.

In 1976 our club held a show—the first since the Dixie Convention in 1974. I entered my seedling. To my astonishment my seedling was named Queen of the Show. All I could do was cry because I wanted so much to share this good news with my husband, who had passed away in 1975. Had it not been for him and his interest in our project, I probably would not have stayed with this hybridizing; and as my daughter consoled me later, "Don't worry, Mom. Dad knows and he's happy, too!"

MARY BOLAND IS NEW CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Arthur F. (Mary) Boland, 6415 Wilcox Court, Alexandria, VA will succeed Mrs. W. M. (Lucile) Plaster as chairman of the AVSA Booster Fund.

Mrs. Plaster has done an outstanding job during her service as Booster Fund chairman since June 1975, when she replaced Dorothy Gray in this position.

Mrs. Boland is an AVSA director. She has named Judy Stroske of Springfield, VA as her assistant. Miss Stroske is an AVSA Life Member.

Question Box



By Anne Tinari, Tinari Greenhouses
2325 Valley Road, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

*The Ides of March seem far away and strange,
But all the earth awakens to the change.
Downy flakes of snow turn into glistening drops of rain,
While singing birds again seek bits of food and grain.*

Dear Readers:

This being my last Question Box Column, after almost 20 years in the Question Box corner of your magazine, I feel a note of gratitude to my readers is in order.

First, to thank each of you for the many, many letters that have come to the Question Box over the years. You wonderful individuals who took the time to send in valuable tips and relate problems you had experienced. To those of you who wrote such warm and memorable notes of thanks and appreciation and to those of you who sent in your questions and kept me ever vigilant of new and existing problems. Yes, even those late evening and early morning phone calls, seeking help and advice or many times just needing understanding and sympathy in a loss or joy incurred with your African violets.

It has been a great experience and a labor of love in helping and also learning with the thousands of letters that have crossed my desk over the years. This has not been a hasty decision for me, and I shall continue to work and serve AVSA to the best of my ability as enthusiastically as ever. I have enjoyed a great rapport with Grace Foote, our beloved AVSA editor, who kept me well-posted on deadlines and matters pertaining to the Question Box.

And now it is my extreme pleasure to introduce to you your new Question Box Editor, Mrs. Catherine Hawley of Columbus, Ohio. Mrs. Hawley is well-known among violet enthusiasts and has grown and hybridized African violets for many years. A well-qualified member to continue this column for the benefit of our vast and growing membership. All future correspondence to the Question Box should be addressed to: Mrs. Catherine Hawley, 2432 Nottingham Road, Columbus, Ohio 43221.

Anne Tinari

Q. Dear Anne: I find some tiny white insects in my soil that I seem unable to get rid of. I seem to have them throughout my soil and cannot get rid of them.

A. I would imagine from your description these pests to be springtails. These are tiny insects that live on the decaying matter of the soil. They are very annoying, but only destructive if plant breaks down, then they may attack the fibrous roots.



They are generally tiny, whitish, wingless insects but can jump with the aid of a forked appendage located at the tip of the abdomen. They are usually noticed after a plant has been watered. They are then known to swim out the bottom drainage hole and if plant is flooded, they can be seen floating on the top of the pot.

Making specific inquiry about an insecticide for this pest I have been told there is none registered. However, it is a well-known fact that soil sterilization can help eliminate this pest. You would also be wise to have your soil tested locally at your state Department of Agriculture or anywhere that soil is tested.

Q. Dear Anne: In catalog descriptions I find the words Dentate, Fluted, Heartshaped and Crenate. What do they designate?

A. All of these terms are used in describing African violet foliage as follows:

Dentate . . . toothed edge on leaf with teeth spreading outward.

Fluted . . . grooved or channeled leaves.

Heartshaped . . . oval in general outline but with two rounded base lobes; cordate.

Crenate . . . a pinked or scalloped edge on leaf.

Q. My problems are many, I don't know where to begin. I grow many plants, but am gradually turning all my space into African violets. For several months now I seem to have inherited my problems, I suspect insects on my plants and they don't have the vigor and flowering quality I have become accustomed to. What can I be doing wrong?

A. Problems are generally caused by improper care, lack of sufficient light, too much or too little water, improper soil, temperature and many times over, underpotting. Make a sincere effort to recognize the bug or type of infestation you may want to eradicate and look for pesticides or insecticides.

ticides that state complete directions for its use. You may want to experiment on just a few plants before subjecting your entire collection to the test. Since you have given me no specific ailments may I suggest you read up on the care of violets in the many good books that exist specifically on African violets. Also refer back to your AVSA issues. Many specific problems are discussed in its pages.

Q. Dear Anne: After ordering the Antrol Bomb, I had the impression I could just release it over the plants. However, I have been sent the Antrol Insect Spray and wonder if it is the same? I have about 50 African violets. Do I spray the plants, flowers and all? My plants look healthy. Is it possible to see mealy bugs?

A. The Antrol Bomb with the label African Violet Insect Spray is one and the same. The manufacturer has changed the can and put on the name Antrol African Violet Insect Spray, but it is the same product with the same ingredients.

However, please read the instructions before using. It should be held 12" to 18" from the plant as it is under pressure and comes out cold which could injure tender plant foliage. Specific instructions are given on the can and one should follow same very carefully.

Foliar mealy bug can certainly be seen. It is a very cottony like substance that adheres to the plant center and on the foliage.

Q. I am just getting started with African violets. I read everything on raising them under fluorescent lights as I lack sufficient window space. What the articles never seem to say is do you use regular fluorescent lights or the special grow lights?

A. First, I should like to refer you to an article in AVSA magazine, Volume 30, No. 3, June 1977 entitled "All Lamps Are Growth Lamps" by Dr. H. M. Cathey. His lecture given at the St. Louis convention to the membership was most interesting.

However, there are so many theories today it is difficult to advise. We do not grow under artificial light in the greenhouses, but it has been our experience with show plants we do groom for spring shows. Our preferences are the Gro-lux tubes where the full spectrum of the light is condensed in one tube. We feel you must have 20-watt or over to reap any benefit from artificial light or greater depending on space available. Two 20-watt tubes over an area or two 40-watt Gro-lux tubes make for an excellent growing atmosphere.

Q. I should like to know if I can see a mite with a magnifying glass?

A. I have been told by several reliable sources that

a 30-power lens must be used before cyclamen mites are visible. Many other infestations such as foliar mealy bug, soil mealy bug, thrip, etc., can be seen plainly at work with less magnification, but a mite is so tiny it takes great magnification.

Q. Dear Anne: Can you answer these questions which have puzzled me?

1. After a "family" gets started from a leaf, when is the leaf removed? The "family" keeps growing and the leaf is still healthy and now is crowding the "family."

2. What causes a white mold on top of the soil in the flower pot? It doesn't seem to matter whether it's a pot with drainage or not.

3. Some 'families' grow so profusely with many crowns. How soon should they be repotted?

A. 1. After the growth of the little family is 2½ to 3 inches high and looks robust and healthy, the mother leaf can be removed.

2. White mold can be the result of excessive watering or it can be due to ingredients in the soil such as nitrogen, salts or an excess of any one ingredient can encourage it. I would suggest removing it when it appears.

3. When each "family" has its own root system being established it can be put into a pot of its own, but only into a small pot. Do not put into too large a pot.

Q. I have two questions which are troubling me.

1. I have just noticed that one of my favorite plants has developed three crowns, all of equal size. They are very close together and the plant is still not of a size that I would want to divide. Furthermore, if I pinch out two of the crowns, I will have a very small single plant left. Is it possible that it is supposed to grow with multiple crowns? What do you suggest?

2. The plant I bought as a trailing African violet is developing a second crown. I suspect this might be desirable on trailers. Shall I allow it (and possible future ones) to develop, or should I keep the trailers to a single crown?

A. 1. I would suggest you leave your plant intact until foliage is larger, possibly 4" to 5" high before gently pulling it apart. Strive to keep as much of a root system as possible on each section and place each in a small pot until desired foliage is apparent. No plant with a multiple crown can be shaped into its full potential, but one must repot and train it gradually. It is well worth the effort.

2. With the trailing cultivars, they should have at least 3 trailing branches from one central stalk with only one plant in the pot if you are entering in a standard show, as they are judged on form rather than symmetry. They should have larger leaves, longer in-

ternodes and heavier stems on trailing branches. If you are growing them for your own pleasure many individuals do desire to have several crowns in one pot, if pot is large enough for good form and helps to create an immediate pendulous effect which is so desirable in a flowering hanging plant.

Q. Dear Anne: I have a variegated African violet that has rust colored spots coming on the leaves. What causes this? Also I have white pebble rocks in my trays. How can I keep them white without harm to my plants? Also do you keep water in the trays the year round and can I use Purex or Clorox on my pebbles?

A. Rust spots can be due to several causes; salt accumulation due to high soluble salts in the soil, lack of proper nutrients in the soil or even the result of insects that may have injured cells where moisture was extracted. It is best to remove these leaves where you can afford to discard them so as not to defoliate the plant.

Be very careful in using Purex or Clorox on your rocks as the fumes may be too severe and cause damage. It may be best to remove the rocks or pebbles and treat separately allowing them to air out before placing under plants.

Water can be beneficial in trays only to create humidity and a more suitable growing atmosphere. Do not use more than needed. Always best to water plants individually and let excess drain onto the pebbles.

Q. After growing African violets for 25 years I seem to have 2 problems. One is that some plant centers just seem to rot away. The other is the centers grow real tight and bunch together and the leaves are real brittle and curl under.

A. Your problem sounds like the familiar cyclamen mite. This is what causes the brittle, bunched centers. Kelthane is recommended but one must faithfully persist in its use. Use 1 teaspoon to 1 gallon of water spraying once a week for about 3 weeks to eradicate this pest. Cyclamen mite cannot be seen with the naked eye and unfortunately treatment is often delayed. Injury and distortion of center foliage appear which are telltale signs of its existence.

Q. Dear Anne: I'm new in violets and also a new member of AVSA. I try to learn all I can but keep reading the word mutation which confuses me. Can you enlighten me?

A. Possibly I can explain it best by stating the definition of a mutant or mutation as it applies to plant life in general. Mutation is a heredity change in character not due to crossing. A mutation or "sport"

may originate from any seedling or established cultivar that produces a different type of flower or foliage.

In other words when the plantlets originated from an African violet leaf cutting differ from their parent in flower or leaf form, it would be a mutation.

A. I am having a problem with violet leaves turning gray at the tips or if the leaf is left on long enough the whole leaf will turn gray and soft. What could cause this?

A. Your problem could be excessive watering or lack of sufficient light causing leaves to get gray and soft. Use only the amount of water plants can use at one time. I prefer to water them from the top around the edge of the pot.

Your soil can also be an important factor if excess pathogenes are present in the soil or soil which has not been sterilized is used.

Be careful not to have plants in too large a pot where excess soil can be the problem. Air circulation among plants is also of great importance. Do not crowd them in too close.

Q. My African violets have been a joy and delight with very few growing problems until we approach a holiday season or vacation time when they are a great concern that takes me weeks to get them going again. What would you suggest?

A. Planning for these trying periods could help to simplify your concern. Remember your African violets are living, breathing material. A great deal of consideration and planning must be given to supply their growing needs when care is at a minimum. One cannot simply forget them when they are not performing or when other interests occupy their time. Continue to care for them by creating the right environment and conditions. It is well to avoid repotting at these times or experimenting with any drastic change that may need constant vigilance. Many readers tell me they make it a practice to check plants the first chore of the morning, even if it means arising a short time earlier. It is time well spent and your reward will be great. Vacation time, too, can present it problems. One should study in advance the different methods that can be used successfully in leaving plants untended for weeks at a time.

Q. I divided a badly overgrown plant that had three crowns. The main crown I repotted without difficulty and it is doing well. The two other divisions lost a lot of root and only tops remain. How should I handle them?

A. I would suggest you trim off any excess leaves on these two remaining divisions. Dip each lightly in a hormone rooting powder and place into a rooting

medium of half sand and half vermiculite until new fibrous roots are established. Then plant individually in a small pot.

TIP #1. . . I have been successful in placing a layer of charcoal at the bottom of my pots, especially the pots that are to be used for my show plants. I find the charcoal keeps the soil sweet and the fibrous roots inbed themselves so beautifully in the charcoal making them light and easy to transport, especially when they are taken long distances.

TIP #2. . . The best way I have found to keep foliage clean and healthy with that envious sheen seen at the violet shows is to give them a lukewarm shower occasionally. I use my hand to support the outer leaves, spraying the foliage carefully with very gentle stream of water, almost like a mist. One must be very cautious not to get the crown of the plant too wet, also to keep the plant out of strong light and sun until foliage is thoroughly dry. For me the early evening hours, when the house is warm is most suitable. By morning the plants are dry and no leaf spotting occurs.

TIP #3. . . Dear Anne: I love to try my hand at cross pollination, but with the amount of violets on the market today I never make a cross just to get a seed pod. My aim is to very carefully select the parent plants in an effort to achieve a better violet cultivar than already exists. I especially look for the following traits: A floriferous plant that shows a good vigorous growth, one with interesting foliage pattern and of rood symmetrical pattern with a petiole that is in proper proportion. The amount of time involved and the hours that can be wasted is a real challenge to select only the very best.

CORRECTION

On page 19 January issue in the Question Box column the word Colchicine was misspelled. I stand corrected on same. Also for the benefit of many readers who often write about obtaining this chemical I have it on good professional advice that the chemical Colchicine can only be bought with a prescription and not over the counter and as previously stated it is used in small doses to treat gout. Any chemical should be used with caution.

Anne Tinari

My Violet Love Story

Dolly Bruce

6836 N.E. Grand Ave.

Portland, OR 97211

My African violet "Love Story" began back in 1974 after a hospital stay. I had received some lovely African violets. I still wasn't too impressed, but a friend of mine in the local violet club, was sure we were meant for each other. And so she continually sent me over leaves and little plants and her AV magazines to read in the hope the 'Violet Bug' would bite me. Then one day, one of my leaves had babies,, and as I watched them grow into lovely plants, I knew that I had been bitten. Love for the violets had arrived.

From a row of violets, several leaves, and baby plants on a stand in our bedroom, my collection grew to 300 violets three years later.

I joined the local violet club, I joined the AVSA and get the AV Magazine. And I try to read all the books I can get to learn more about raising these lovely plants. Last year with the encouragement of my husband and my friend I entered several of my plants in the local violet show, and received several ribbons. I then entered my violets in two garden shows and received more ribbons. This all added to my violet love affair, and the bug then bit my husband.

My husband became my biggest champion in this love affair. He kept helping me add stands, more fluorescent lights, and always trying for better grow-

ing conditions for me, and my violets. Last year our son left for the army and his room became vacant, but not for long. It soon became the Violet Room. My husband built me three stands, with three shelves each, along the three walls. Each shelf is two feet by four feet long. And each shelf has its own fluorescent light. On these shelves I use plastic trays 11" by 21". These are filled with water, as I wanted to wick my plants. My husband built a frame of hardwood 1½" by ½' to fit inside of each tray. On this frame he attached wire hardware cloth with ½" square openings. I can place my plants anywhere on this and put the wick through into the water. There are two braces on the frame that holds the wire tight so that the plants don't tip. I find this is the fastest way of watering my large collection.

Before we came up with this method, I had previously tried wicking by using cottage cheese cartons. I lost too many of my plants by the plants tipping off the cartons or the cartons themselves falling and breaking the leaves. I then started using Vermiculite and charcoal in the trays, the plants did well, but I was convinced they would do better on wicks. I just add the water at the front of the tray, thus I don't disturb the plants in anyway. And the profusion of the blooms in the Violet Room express their thanks and love for their new environment.

INSECT FACTS

*Dr. Charles L. Cole
Area Entomologist
Texas Agricultural Extension Service
The Texas A&M University System
College Station, TX*

There are over one million known insect species and new species are being described daily. Insects make up more than 4/5 of all the known animal species on earth.

Insects have adopted to a wide variety of habitats. They are found virtually everywhere including the soil, air, and water. Some insects live in underground caves and some thrive in ice and snow. Certain species are found in Great Salt Lake where no other animal can survive. Others are found in hot springs and one species lives in oil pits. Some insects will move right in and set up house-keeping in your home.

Insects feed on a wide variety of foods. Some are meat eaters, feeding mostly on other insects. Some are scavengers and many feed on plants. You name it and some insect will eat it. This includes cigars, shoe-soles, chili powder, and wallpaper paste.

Fortunately, not all insect species are pests. In fact, only a very small percentage is considered as pests of man, his animals, or his plants. Most species are considered as of no consequence to man while some are considered as beneficial to man. Beneficial species include predators and parasites of pest species, certain scavengers which aid in cleaning up our environment, and species which pollinate plants.

Some insects have been cultured by man for generations. These include silkworms, certain scale insects from which lacquer and dyes are made, and honey bees.

Insects have long adorned man's table and many are still considered as a delicacy. By some people. Locusts have been eaten since the time of Moses. Indians from North America and Mexico ate marsh flies. Many species of caterpillars are popular food items in parts of Africa and South America today. Other species of insects recorded as being eaten by man included dragonflies, certain beetles, cicadas, lice, ants, termites, and many more.

Insects have been used for medicinal purposes as well as for food. Certain beetles have been used as a cure for toothache. Gall insects which contain tannin have been used in astringent ointments and to control diarrhea. Ladybeetles were once considered an effective remedy for colic and measles. The acid in the sting of bees is today considered beneficial to rheumatism or arthritic conditions.

More than 25 different insects have been recorded

from African violets. Of these about a dozen can be serious pests. Some attack the flowers, some the foliage, and others the roots. Proper identification of insect pests is necessary in order to apply effective control measures. A thorough knowledge of the life history and habitats of the pests can aid violet growers in controlling pests before plants are severely damaged.

SELECTING PESTICIDES

Selecting an effective pesticide is fast becoming a science. An ever increasing number of factors must be considered before purchasing and using chemicals. African violet enthusiasts need to know a great deal about pesticides if they are to achieve effective control of violet pests and maintain the aesthetic value of their plants.

WHAT IS A PESTICIDE?

A pesticide is any substance or mixture of substances intended to prevent, destroy, repel or mitigate any pest or any substance or mixture of substances intended for use as a plant regulator, defoliant, or desiccant.

TYPES OF PESTICIDES

Repellents: Chemicals which are used to repel or keep pests away.

Plant Growth Regulators: Chemicals which stop, speed up or otherwise change normal plant processes.

Herbicides: Chemicals which control weeds.

Fungicides: Chemicals which control fungi.

Miticides: Chemicals which control mites.

Insecticides: Chemicals which control insects.

As fungicides will not control insects and insecticides will not control fungi, and so on, it is important to know exactly what the pest problem is before purchasing a pesticide. Too many times individuals use fungicides to try to control insects or insecticides to try to control diseases only to find that their problems get worse and they eventually lose their plants to the pests.

TYPES OF INSECTICIDES

Narrowing our discussion down to only one group of pesticides - - - the insecticides, we still find much to learn. Insecticides may be divided into sub-categories: contact poisons, stomach poisons, and systemics. Contact poisons kill insects on contact. Stomach poisons are ingested by pests and the pests are killed. Systemics are chemicals which are taken up by the plant and the plant juices actually contain the poison which kills the insect as it feeds on the plant.

Pesticides may also be grouped as to their chemical nature.

Plant-derived Organic Insecticides are made from plant parts such as leaves or roots. This group includes rotenone, pyrethrins, strychnine, and nicotine. These insecticides can be used effectively against a number of pests.

Living Micro-organisms such as viruses, bacteria, and fungi. Many species of micro-organisms are effective as insecticides and are very selective in what they kill. Some examples of this type are *Bicillus thuringiensis* and the polyhedrosis virus used to control certain chewing larvae.

Inorganic Insecticides are those made from minerals. They include sulfur, arsenic, bbron, and diatomaceous earth.

Synthetic Organic Insecticides are man made synthetics. They contain carbon, hydrogen, and one or more other elements such as nitrogen, phosphorous, or chlorine. Examples of synthetic organic insecticides include Malathion, Diazinon, Orthene, and Sevin.

TYPES OF FORMULATIONS

Insecticides come in several convenient forms. Under different circumstances different formulations may be preferred. Insecticide formulations are made up of two or more of the following ingredients:

Active ingredients: The active ingredient is the insecticide or agent which is toxic to the insect pest. It may be designated as percent actual toxicant.

Solvent: The solvent is a compound which is used to dissolve the active ingredient, which may be a solid. Some common solvents are: kerosine, varsol, and hexane.

Emulsifier: An emulsifier is actually a soap or chemical which, when used, will allow an oil and water to mix.

Diluent: Diluents are used to dilute active ingredients to the desired concentration. They may be inert ingredients such as powdered rock or clay.

Synergist: A synergist is a chemical which, when used with an active ingredient, increases its effectiveness.

Emulsifiable Concentrates (EC or E): An emulsifiable concentrate is a formulation which may be diluted with water to the desired concentration for treating plants. An emulsifiable concentrate contains an active ingredient, a solvent, and an emulsifier.

Wettable Powders (WP or W): These formulations are in the dry powder form and are to be mixed with water to obtain the desired concentration. They are applied as a spray. A wettable powder contains an active ingredient, an emulsifier and a diluent.

Dusts (D): Dusts are purchased ready to use in the desired concentration. They are easily applied and most effective when applied thoroughly but sparingly. Dusts can not be mixed with water as can wettable powders. Dusts contain an active ingredient and a diluent.

Soluble Powders (SP): These are dry powders which may be mixed with water to obtain the desired concentration. As the active ingredient is water soluble no emulsifier is needed. They contain an active ingredient and a diluent.

Granules (G): Granular formulations are to be applied dry. They contain an active ingredient and diluent. The diluent is coarse or granulated and may be clay, ground corn cob, or similar material. The active ingredient is absorbed in or coats the granules.

Baits (B): Baits contain an attractant or food product of the pest you wish to destroy. When consuming the bait enough toxicant is ingested to kill the pest.

Aerosols (A): Aerosols are liquids containing an active ingredient and a solvent. These formulations are made to be used as a fog or mist and are generally used in closed structures such as greenhouses. Many are available in pressurized containers and contain a propellant. These are convenient but must be used properly to prevent damage to plants.

TOXICITY OF INSECTICIDES

Toxicity is a measure of the potency of the toxic agent. The toxicity of different insecticides varies considerably and is indicated by being a certain LD₅₀. The LD₅₀ is the miligrams of toxicant per kilogram of body weight necessary to kill 50 percent of the population treated. The following table compares the levels of toxicity indicated by certain LD₅₀ levels.

Highly toxic.....LD₅₀ - 50mg/kg or less
Moderately toxic.....LD₅₀ - 50-500 mg/kg
Low order toxicity.....LD₅₀ - 500-5,000 mg/kg
Comparatively free from danger.....LD₅₀ - 5,000+ mg/kg

The LD₅₀ of some of the common insecticides you may use around the home are as follows:

Diazinon.....	250
Dimethoate.....	215
Malathion.....	1,375

Dimethoate (Cygon, De-fend).....	320
Carbaryl (Sevin).....	850
DDVP.....	400
DiSulfoton (Di-Syston).....	6.8
Dicofol (Kelthane).....	217
Methoxychlor.....	6,000
Orthene.....	866

INSECTICIDE USE AND SAFETY

All insecticides are toxic to some degree and must be handled properly.

Use the recommended rate only. Recommended rates for each insecticide are determined through extensive research and study. Lower than recommended rates may result in poor control and reinfestation. The use of rates higher than those recommended, may cause phytotoxicity resulting in burned or discolored plants. Higher rates will not, as a rule, give better control than recommended.

Mix insecticides in a well ventilated area, preferably out of doors. Avoid inhaling any dusts or vapors.

Never smoke, drink or eat while handling insecticides.

Wear protective clothing when mixing and applying insecticides.

Store insecticides in a locked area out of reach of children and pets. Do not store near food, feed or seed.

Dispose of pesticide containers in a proper manner.

Purchase insecticides in quantities which can be used up in one year or less.

Mix only the amount to be used at the present time. Once diluted with water, insecticides begin to deteriorate and soon become ineffective.

Read and follow all directions and precautions on the label.

SELECTING YOUR PESTICIDE

Before selecting a pesticide, determine your specific pest problem. As fungicides are effective only against diseases, and insecticides only against insects, you need to select the effective material.

Selection needs to be made on the basis of active ingredient rather than brand name as most companies market fungicides, insecticides and herbicides all under the same brand name.

Specific insecticides are more effective against specific pests, others are phytotoxic to certain plants. For these reasons you should consult the label of insecticides for information concerning your specific plant and pest.

If pesticides are selected and used in accordance to the label, they will be effective in controlling the pest and they will not cause harm to our plants, our pets, our environment or ourselves.

Continued Research Considered Necessary

Dr. Brent H. McCown, associate professor, Department of Horticulture, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, in a letter to the editor of the African Violet Magazine, expressed his pleasure over the research articles appearing in the magazine and explained the need for continued research.

Here's Dr. McCown's letter:

I have just read the November issue of *The African Violet Magazine* and was pleased to see the second part of our research proposal so well explained. The value of keeping your members fully informed about the ongoing research activities that AVSA supports can only result in greater voluntary contributions for future projects.

I am concerned that a potential misunderstanding might develop about our research, however. Micropropagation is a very active and exciting field and even since the writing of our proposal, a number of changes have already occurred. In particular, although one of our goals was the adaptation of "test-tube" culture for commercial production of the Gesneriaceae, this indeed has already occurred. Plants produced by micropropagation are now available on both the wholesale and retail markets. However, such progress does not eliminate the need for continued research into this problem. For example, we have received reports from some growers that plants produced from micropropagation do not initially perform as well as those propagated by more conventional means. In no way is this observation universal, for we also have talked to growers where micropropagated plants grow as well or superior to those produced from leaf cuttings. Why the difference? Indeed, the need for continued research is apparent.

By the way, some growers are becoming increasingly concerned about the accumulation of viral diseases in their stock. Since meristem culture is one possible method of "cleaning" such clones, the application of tissue culture to the production of the Gesneriaceae may be more rapid than we originally anticipated.

Possibly the best way of conveying my thoughts about these matters is to publish this as a letter to the editor. I welcome any further comments from your readers.

Sincerely,
/s/Brent H. McCown, Ph. D.
Associate Professor

REGISTERED AFRICAN VIOLETS

The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

December 1, 1976 to December 1, 1977

AVSA Registrar Mrs. Fred Tretter

4988 Schollmeyer

St. Louis, Missouri 63109

All varieties registered from 1949 through June 1, 1976 may be found in the MASTER VARIETY LIST VOLUME No. 3.

Code: Color, Leaf Type, Flower Type and Plant Size.

COLOR

B - Blue
C - Multicolor
(2 or more colors)
D - Dark
E - Edge
G - Green
L - Light
M - Medium

O - Orchid, Mauve,
Lavender
P - Pink, Rose
R - Red, Maroon,
Plum, Burgundy
V - Violet, purple
W - White, Cream, Blush
X - Two-tone, 2 hues
of same color
Y - Yellow

LEAF TYPE

1 - Longifolia or
spider
2 - Plain, Tailored
3 - Quilted
4 - Girl, Semi-girl
5 - Ruffled, Fringed
Wavy, Fluted
6 - Supreme
7 - Variegated
8 - Spooned,
Ovate,
Cupped-up
9 - Pointed
0 - Compound
or Piggyback

FLOWER TYPE

s - Single
d - Double
s-d - Semi-double
c - Star shaped
f - Fringed, Ruffled
s-t-d - Single to double
w - Wasp type

PLANT SIZE

M - Miniature (6" or under)
S-M - Semiminiature (6" - 8")
S - Standard (Over 8")
L - Very Large (Over 16")
M-T - Miniature Trailer
S-T - Standard Trailer

An asterisk * means a change

Name	Reg. No.	Date Reg.	Applicant	Code
A				
Abigail Adams	3226	9/29/77	I. Fredette	L-BX 2 s-dc S
Alice Marie	3215	9/25/77	Volkman Bros.	M-P 3 dS
Alzira	3185	8/24/77	G. R. Beck	W-V-E 35 s-d S
Alouette	2787	2/17/76	Irene Fredette	P 57 df L
Amethyst Sparks	3206	9/25/77	Champion AV	OW 57 sc L
Amy Anderson	2775	12/27/75	Mrs. W. E. Anderson	WV-E 5 sf S
Andromeda I	3024	11/6/76	Lyn D. Robinson	D-PX 2 sc S
Angel's Petticoats	2778	1/29/76	Mrs. W. F. Anderson	M-PX 38 s-df S
Anna (See Ballet Anna)				
Antique Coral	3207	9/25/77	Champion AV	M-P 37 d L
Apple Blossom (See Tennessee Apply Blossom)				
Arpegge' Minuet	3009	9/22/76	Mrs. A. Belanger	P 79 df S
B				
Ballard of Dixie	3026	11/8/76	V. Lorenzen (Park N)	WR 29 dc S
Ballet Anna	2890	9/20/76	Geo J. Ball Inc.	M-PX 2 sf S
Ballet Christina	2891	9/20/76	Geo J. Ball Inc.	M-B s&df S
*Ballet Erica	2892	9/20/76	Geo J. Ball Inc.	R-VX 5 s&s-df S
*Ballet Eva	2893	9/20/76	Geo J. Ball Inc.	D-BX 3 s-d S
Ballet Heidi	2894	9/20/76	Geo J. Ball Inc.	VX 3 s S
Ballet Helga	2895	9/20/76	Geo J. Ball Inc.	L-V 3 s-d S
*Ballet Inge	2896	9/20/76	Geo J. Ball Inc.	D-B 35 sf S
*Ballet Karla	2897	9/20/76	Geo J. Ball Inc.	M-PX 25 sf S
*Ballet Lisa	2898	9/20/76	Geo J. Ball Inc.	P 2 sf S
Ballet Marta	2899	9/20/76	Geo J. Ball Inc.	VX 2 s&s-df S
*Ballet Meta	3000	9/20/76	Geo J. Ball Inc.	D-B 35 s S

*Ballet Ulli	3001	9/20/76	Geo J. Ball Inc.	D-B 25 sf S
Beaumont	3200	9/19/77	House of Violets	V 3 s-d S
Beau Philip (See Suzy's Beau Philip)				
Because	2837	5/17/76	Swifts' AV	L-P 5 s-d L
Beginner's Luck	2803	3/9/76	Mrs. R. L. Pritchett	M-PX 29 s&d S-M
Bell Ringing Fool	3244	11/23/77	Mrs. H. J. Hebert	OX 3 d L
Berlin Beauty	3193	9/6/77	Volkman Bros.	D-B 3 s-dc S
Bess Williams	3216	9/25/77	Volkman Bros.	R 5 dc S
Bicentennial Trail	2882	8/23/76	Lyndon Lyon	D-P 2 dc S-T
Big League	3027	11/8/76	V. Lorenzen (Park N)	M-B 39 d S
Blue Chips (See Vern's Blue Chips)				
Blue Shadows	3194	9/6/77	Volkman Bros.	D-B 2 s-d S
Bright Butterfly	3208	9/25/77	Champion AV	D-P 37 d L
Bustover (See Peggy's Bustover)				
Blue Heaven (See Vern's Blue Heaven)				
Blue Moon (See Tennessee Blue Moon)				
Bonnie May (See Suzy's Bonnie May)				
Brett Steven (See Suzy's Brett Steven)				

C

California Sunrise	2834	5/10/76	C. E. Wilson	RW-E 57 df S
Cameo Queen (See Granger's Cameo Queen)				
Candy Man	3201	9/19/77	House of Violets	V 37 d S
Carol	3002	9/20/76	Union Co. Chapter	O-P 35 df S
Cat's Meow	3238	11/11/77	Swifts' AV	R-PW-E 35 s-df L
Celeste (See Rainbow's Celeste)				
Celine	3188	8/26/77	AVS of Staten Island	M-B 2 d S
Charisma	2820	4/22/76	House of Violets	VW-E 6 d S
Chatterbox	3028	11/8/76	V. Lorenzen (Park N)	PX 29 s L
Cherished Hope	2805	3/29/76	House of Violets	P-W 3 df S
Cherokee Fire	2883	8/23/76	Lyndon Lyon	L-R 27 dc S
Cherry Hill	2804	3/15/76	R. Yerman	R 2 dc S-M
Cherry Mint (See Shomee Cherry Mint)				
Cherry Parfait	3209	9/25/77	Champion AV	PWC 357 df L
Cherry Swirl	3234	11/5/77	L. D. Robinson	WPC 5 df S
Chinese Dawn	3021	10/26/76	Christine Leppard	OX 3 d L
Chinese Midnight	3022	10/26/76	Christine Leppard	V 35 dfc S
Christi Love	2884	8/23/76	Lyndon Lyon	L-P 5 dc S
Christina (See Ballet Christina)				
Christopher Howard	3237	11/8/77	E. Fisher	M-B 256 sf S
Cloud Pink (See Volkman's Cloud Pink)				
Coral Belle	2776	1/5/76	Tinari GH	D-PW-E 239 d S
Cotton Bowl	3239	11/11/77	Swifts' AV	W 35 df L
Country Gentleman	3202	9/19/77	House of Violets	V 37 d S
Criteria	3029	11/8/76	V. Lorenzen (Park N)	M-P 238 dc S
Crocus	2838	5/17/76	Swifts' AV	PX 9 s-d S

D

Dark Beauty	3195	9/6/77	Volkman Bros.	V 3 sc S
Debbie (See Peggy's Debbie)				
Delta Dawn	2831	4/22/76	House of Violets	D-P 3 df S
Diane (See Peggys' Diane)				
Dick Bell	2819	4/21/76	Martha Tucker	L-BX 2 s M
Dixie Dandy	2806	3/9/76	House of Violets	P 35 d L
Duffy	2832	4/26/76	V. M. Ozimek	V 27 d S
Dum Dum	2839	5/17/76	Swifts' AV	V 2 d L
Dutchman	2840	5/17/76	Swifts' AV	M-B 35 s-dc L
Dutch Miss	2841	5/17/76	Swifts' AV	PX 3 d L
Dutch Skies	3240	11/11/77	Swifts' AV	BW 35 df L
Dutch Stars	2842	5/17/76	Swifts' AV	BWC 35 s-dc L

E

Edna Huagh	3217	9/25/77	Volkman Bros.	L-P 2 d S-M
Eileen	2801	2/25/76	Mrs. C. J. Donald Jr.	L-B 5 df S
Elaine	3218	9/25/77	Volkman Bros.	D-RW-E 5 s-d S
Elect Lady	3250	11/28/77	Betty Bryant	P 359 sf S
Engaged	2843	5/17/76	Swifts' AV	P 23 s-dc L

Eric	3014	9/30/76	Uninon County Ch.	V 3 df S
Erica (See Ballet Erica)				
Eva (See Ballet Eva)				
Evelyn Beaird	2889	9/13/76	Judith Richey	OW-E 359 s-df S

F

Fair Fax	2781	2/3/76	Mrs. E. Kramer	D-R 57 d L
Fingerpaints	3245	11/24/77	Alene King	R-PBG-E 5 s&s-df S
First Snow	2877	8/9/76	Arthur Hill	W 23 d S
Flamingo (See Swanee Flamingo)				
Flash (See Nern's Flash)				
Flower Power	2822	4/22/76	House of Violets	R-P 3 df S
Forest Mist	3025	11/6/76	Lyn D. Robinson	M-PG-E 59 df S
French Lace (See Vern's French Lace)				
French Lilac	2844	5/17/76	Swifts' AV	ORC 35 df L
Futuristic	2845	5/17/76	Swifts' AV	PW-E 28 d L

G

Gale's Gift	2784	2/4/76	Mrs. Gale Tucker	OX 2 s S
Gayla	3196	9/6/77	Volkman Bros.	R-P 5 d S
Gertha (See Suzy's Gertha)				
Glen H	2003	9/20/76	Union County Ch.	D-B 29 dc S
Good Morning	3030	11/8/76	V. Lorenzen (Park N)	M-P 239 d S
Grace G (See Suzy's Grace G)				
Granada (See Granger's Granada)				
Granddad	3120	4/14/77	Wanda McPeters	D-BW-E 57 d S
Grandson	2878	8/9/76	A. F. Hill	R 23 d S
Granger's Cameo Queen	2863	7/31/76	Granger Gardens	W 23 d S
Granger's Granada	2864	7/31/76	Granger Gardens	R-OX 239 d S
Granger's Jim Dandy	2865	7/31/76	Granger Gardens	D-BV 23 d S
Granger's Lavender Belle	2866	7/31/76	Granger Gardens	O 23 d S
Granger's Monaco	2867	7/31/76	Granger Gardens	WB-E 23 d S
Granger's Pink Fashion	2868	7/31/76	Granger Gardens	M-P 239 d S
Granger's Pink Nimbus	2869	7/31/76	Granger Gardens	L-PW-E 239 d S
Granger's Red Flame	2870	7/31/76	Granger Gardens	R-O 239 d S
Granger's Red Gold	2871	7/31/76	Granger Gardens	R-O 279 d S
Granger's Red Knave	2872	7/31/76	Granger Gardens	R-O 239 d S
Granger's Regalaire	2873	7/31/76	Granger Gardens	D-BW-E 239 d S
Granger's Starburst	2874	7/31/76	Granger Gardens	D-PRC 35 sc S
Granger's Sylvan Blue	2875	7/31/76	Granger Gardens	M-B 23 df S
Granger's Wildfire	2876	7/31/76	Granger Gardens	R-OW-E 239 df S
Great Music	2823	4/22/76	House of Violets	PX 3 sc S

H

Heavenly Halo	3210	9/25/77	Champion AV	OW 378 d S
Heidi (See Ballet Heidi)				
Helene	2885	8/23/76	Lyndon Lyon	P-R 2 dc S
Helga (See Ballet Helga)				
Hill Country	3241	11/11/77	Swifts' AV	D-P 5 df L
Hot Kiss	3227	10/15/77	L. Sebastian	D-PX 5 sf S

I

Illumination	3031	11/8/76	V. Lorenzen (Park N)	L-PX 239 dc S
Inge (See Ballet Inge)				

J

Jack	2846	5/17/76	Swifts' AV	B-VW-E 2 s-d L
Jason	3004	9/20/76	Union County Ch.	D-P 35 df S
Jennifer Paige (See Suzy's Jennifer Paige)				
Jerry B (See Suzy's Jerry B)				
Jim Dandy (See Granger's Jim Dandy)				
Joy Bells	2824	4/22/76	House of Violets	M-BRC 2 s-d S

K

Karla (See Ballet Karla)
Kathryn (See Rainbow's Kathryn)

L

Lady Jane	3067	11/26/76	F. V. Delly	O 23 d L
L'Amour	3032	11/8/76	V. Lorenzen (Park N)	M-P 29 d S
Lanigan's May Queen	2774	12/12/75	J. B. Kuhler	M-PXW-E 29 sfc S
Lavender Belle (See Granger's Lavender Belle)				
Lavender Cream (See Shirlee's Lavender Cream)				
Lavenesque	3033	11/8/76	V. Lorenzen (Park N)	OX 39 s to t-d S
Ledley Cox	3010	9/27/76	Mrs. J. G. Barnhill Jr.	VW-E 2 d L
Legend Of Love	3203	10/19/77	House of Violets	PX 28 D S
Lisa (See Ballet Lisa)				
Little Beau (See Suzy's Little Beau)				
Little Boy Blue	3063	11/23/76	Mrs. J. S. Barnhill	M-B 2 s S-M
Little Jim	3005	9/20/76	Union County Ch.	M-P 29 d S-M
Little Red	3006	9/20/76	Union County Ch.	R 3 s M
Liza T	3062	11/18/76	Mrs. Goldie Kinne	W 239 s S
Lizzy Mae	3058	11/15/76	J. H. Smith	PX 27 d S
Lucilles Delight	3034	11/8/76	V. Lorenzen (Park N)	WP 368 d S

M

Maas' Variegated Gorgeous	3013	10/1/76	Hilton Dallia Farm	WR 27 d S
Magic Splendor	2886	8/23/76	L. Lyon	L-BW-E 23 s-dc S
Marge Winters	2817	4/9/76	Mrs. R. S. Riquelmy	VX 37 s S
Maria Androlina	3186	8/24/77	G. R. Beck	O-P 45 s-df S
Maria-Elaina	2816	4/9/76	Mrs. H. Keenahan	R-PXW-E 23 d S
Mark	3007	9/20/76	Union County Ch	D-R 35 df S
Marta (See Ballet Marta)				
Mary Ann Pritchett	3064	11/23/76	Mrs. J. S. Barnhill	M-P 2 s-d L
Masterpiece (See Vern's Masterpiece)				
Mauve Eyues	3228	10/15/77	L. Sebastian	L-OPX 29 sf S
May Queen (See Lanigan's May Queen)				
Melva Nelson	2855	5/24/76	Edd Smith	OX 359 df S
Meta (See Ballet Meta)				
Mexico	3197	9/6/77	Volkman Bros.	R 3 d S
Midget Ringer	3211	9/25/77	Champion AV	D-P 279 sc M
Mighty Mini	3023	11/3/76	Dorothy Adams	M-B 39 s-dc L
Millie Blair	3020	10/26/76	Granger G	L-BW-E 5 df S
Mint Floss (See Shomee Mint Floss)				
Miss Charm	3035	11/8/76	V. Lorenzen (Park N)	D-P 39 dc S
Mister Cook	3219	9/25/77	Volkman Bros.	M-P 2 d S
Misty Trinket	3212	9/25/77	Champion AV	L-P 37 d S-M
Moby Dick	3246	11/25/77	Cape Cod V.	P 2 df S
Monaco (See Granger's Monaco)				
Moonbeam (See Vern's Moonbeam)				
Mount Currie	2835	5/10/76	H. Gethen	OX 29 d S
Mount Garibaldi	2836	5/10/76	H. Gethen	O 35 df S
Mrs. Lucky (See Suzy's Mrs. Lucky)				
Mulberry Mist	2847	5/17/76	Swifts' AV	D-R-O 39 d L
Murphy	2833	4/26/76	V. M. Ozimek	WBC 37 d S
My Valentine	2825	4/22/76	House of Violets	P-R 3 d S

N

Nancy Kelly	2826	4/22/76	House of Violets	VW-E 25 s-d S
New Year's Day	3011	9/30/76	D. R. Maness	WLP 39 s S-M
Nob Hill	3187	8/24/77	G. R. Beck	L-PR 58 s-d S

O

Olivia	3198	9/6/77	Volkman Bros.	P 2 s-d S
Olympic	2782	2/3/76	Mrs. E. Kramer	PWRC 3 dc L
Orchid Twin	2785	2/11/76	D. K. Feeter	L-VX 3 s L
Ouida Donald	2802	2/25/76	Mrs. C. J. Donald Jr.	PVC 239 sc S
Our Joyce	2779	2/2/76	Rienhardt's AV	BWC 3 d L

P

Painted Orchid	2848	5/17/76	Swifts' AV	OV 2 s-d L
Pale Face	3229	10/15/77	L. Sebastian	L-P 39 s S
Paper Lace	2827	4/22/76	House of Violets	P 2 d S
Party Pink (See Swanee Party Pink)				
Patte Gae	3251	11/28/77	Betty Bryant	P 35 s-df S
Peggy's Bustover	3189	9/6/77	Peggy's VS	WO 2 s-d S
Peggy's Debbie	3190	9/6/77	Peggy's VS	M-PW-E 235 s-d S
Peggy's Diane	3191	9/6/77	Peggy's VS	M-P 38 s S
Peggy's Toni	3192	9/6/77	Peggy's VS	D-P 238 df S
Peppermint Patti	3235	11/5/77	L. D. Robinson	PX 5 df S
Pick-A-Dilly	3204	9/19/77	House of Violets	D-B 37 df S
Pinafore (See Tennessee Pinafore)				
Pink Fashion (See Granger's Pink Fashion)				
Pink-I-Think	2849	5/17/76	Swifts' AV	P 29 d L
Pink Lemonade	2879	8/17/76	Mr. Gene Thiel	PX 239 sf L
Pink Mink	2880	8/17/76	Mr. Gene Thiel	P 239 d L
Pink Mist (See Tennessee Pink Mist)				
Pink Nimbus (See Granger's Pink Nimbus)				
Pink Snow	2807	3/9/76	House of Violets	L-P 3 df S
Pink Star (See Tennessee Pink Star)				
Pink Surprise	2828	4/22/76	House of Violets	P 5 df S
Pink Waves	3036	11/8/76	V. Lorenzen (Park N)	M-P 29 dc S
Pizzazz	2881	8/17/76	Mr. Gene Thiel	L-PX 23 s S
Plum Crest	3037	11/8/76	V. Lorenzen (Park N)	R 29 d S
Pretty Pansy	2850	5/17/76	Swifts' AV	O-V 2 s-d L
Pretty Thing	2851	5/17/76	Swifts' AV	D-PX 23 d L
Pure Chloroform	2856	5/29/76	Ronn Nadeau	O 2 s&d S-M
Pure Glucose	2857	5/29/76	Ronn Nadeau	P 5 dc S
Pure Hexane	2858	5/29/76	Ronn Nadeau	P 2 s&s-d S-M
Pure Methanol	2850	5/29/76	Ronn Nadeau	P 29 s S-M
Pure Sucrose	2860	5/29/76	Ronn Nadeau	B 5 dc S
Pure Water	2861	5/29/76	Ronn Nadeau	WBC 2 s S
Purple Charm	3199	9/6/77	Volkman Bros.	B-V 2 d S
Purple Prince	3220	9/25/77	Volkman Bros.	D-V 3 d S
Purple Rythum	2783	2/3/76	Mrs. E. Kramer	VW-E 3 sf L

R

Radiant	3038	11/8/76	V. Lorenzen (Park N)	R 29 dc S
Ragsamuffin (See Rainbow's Ragsamuffin)				
Rainbow's Celest	3222	9/26/77	D. S. Hirt	D-O-RW 2 sf S
Rainbow's Kathryn	3223	9/26/77	D. S. Hirt	D-R 2 d S
Rainbow's Ragsamuffin	3224	9/26/77	D. S. Hirt	P 3 s-d S
Rainbow's Shado	3225	9/26/77	D. S. Hirt	PV 3 s-d S
Raspberry Swirl	3236	11/5/77	L. Robinson	WRC 5 df S
Red Flame (See Granger's Red Flame)				
Red Gold (See Granger's Red Gold)				
Red Knave (See Granger's Red Knave)				
Red Velvet (See Vern's Red Velvet)				
Regalaire (See Granger's Regalaire)				
Reverend Blades	3205	9/19/77	House of Violets	V 37 df S
Rodney	2829	4/22/76	House of Violets	D-B 2 d L
Rose Parade	3039	11/8/76	V. Lorenzen (Park N)	M-P 29 dc S
Rosy Frills	3230	10/15/77	L. Sebastian	M-PX 359 sf S
Rosy Plus	2852	5/17/76	Swifts' AV	PX 25 d L

S

Saint Marys	3012	9/30/76	Donald Maness	WO-E 57 dc S
Sapphire Trinket	3213	9/25/77	Champion AV	D-B 37 d S-M
Satin Sheen	2830	4/22/76	House of Violets	L-P 2 df S
Say Yes	2808	3/9/76	House of Violets	P 2 df S
Sea Breeze	3008	9/20/76	Union County Ch	VWC or V 3 d L
Shado (See Rainbow's Shado)				
Sharon Lynn	3233	10/28/77	W. F. Whiffen	D-PX 5 s-d S
Shirlee's Lavender Cream	2862	6/3/76	Mrs. D. E. Sands	L-OX 7 d S
Shomee Cherry Mint	3059	11/17/76	Tomara AV	D-PX 579 df S
Shomee Mint Floss	3060	11/17/76	Tomara AV	WP 579 df S

Shomee Thistledown	3061	11/17/76	Tomara AV	WO 2 df S
Snowball Special	2809	3/9/76	House of Violets	W 3 d S
Something Else	2810	3/9/76	House of Violets	P-RX 3 d S
Something New	3040	11/8/76	V. Lorenzen (Park N)	W 23 d S
Song Sung Blue	2811	3/9/76	House of Violets	M-B 3 d S
Southland Grape	2853	5/17/76	Swifts' AV	V 3 df L
Southland Rose	2854	5/17/76	Swifts' AV	D-P 3 d L
Spangles	3041	11/8/76	V. Lorenzen (Park N)	P 239 sc S
Sparkle Plenty	2786	2/12/76	Analee Violetry	D-PR-E 358 dc L
Spry	3042	11/8/76	V. Lorenzen (Park N)	V-B 358 d S
Starburst (See Granger's Starburst)				
Summer Skies (See Vern's Summer Skies)				
Sunburn	3231	10/15/77	L. Sebastian	D-PX 59 s S
Surprise	3043	11/8/76	V. Lorenzen (Park N)	BWC 28 dc S
Suzy's Beau Philip	2791	2/22/76	Mrs. H. S. Johnson	M-B 23 s&d S
Suzy's Bonnie May	2792	2/22/76	Mrs. H. S. Johnson	D-OX 2 sfc S
Suzy's Brett Steven	2793	2/22/76	Mrs. H. S. Johnson	L-O 3 d S
Suzy's Gertha	2794	2/22/76	Mrs. H. S. Johnson	M-B 2 s&d S-M
Suzy's Grace G	2795	2/22/76	Mrs. H. S. Johnson	WOC 2 s&dc S
Suzy's Jennifer Paige	2796	2/22/76	Mrs. H. S. Johnson	OX 3 d S
Suzy's Jerry B	2797	2/22/76	Mrs. H. S. Johnson	L-VX 3 s&s-dc S
Suzy's Little Beau	2798	2/22/76	Mrs. H. S. Johnson	L-BX 2 d S-M
Suzy's Mrs. Lucky	2799	2/22/76	Mrs. H. S. Johnson	L-OX 239 d S-M
Suzy's Ward B	2800	2/22/76	Mrs. H. S. Johnson	L-VX 27 s-d S
Swanee Flamingo	3065	11/26/76	Elmer Swanson	PX 39 s S
Swanee Party Pink	3066	11/26/76	Elmer Swanson	PG-E 2 df S
Sweet Dream (See Val's Sweet Dream)				
Sweet Honesty	2887	8/23/76	Lyndon Lyon	D-P 57 dc S
Sweet Surrender	2812	3/9/76	House of Violets	P 2 d S
Sweet Violet	3242	11/11/77	Swifts' AV	L-O 2 s-d L
Sylvan Blue (See Granger's Sylvan Blue)				

T

Tennessee Apple Blossom	3015	10/20/76	Mrs. T. C. Fritz	L-P 2 sc S
Tennessee Blue Moon	3016	10/20/76	Mrs. T. C. Fritz	D-B 2 sc S
Tennessee Pinafore	3017	10/20/76	Mrs. T. C. Fritz	WBCG-E 5 sf S
Tennessee Mist	3018	10/20/76	Mrs. T. C. Fritz	L-PX 2 sc L
Tennessee Pink Star	3019	10/20/76	Mrs. T. C. Fritz	D-P 2 sc S
The Musician	3243	11/12/77	Rev. L. E. Collins	OX 38 s-d S
Thistledown (See Shomee Thistledown)				
Thriller Diller	2813	3/9/76	House of Violets	RG-E 3 df S
Tina Lou	2780	2/2/76	Rienhardt's AV	D-R-OX 27 d L
Tiny Tot	2888	8/23/76	Lyndon Lyon	WP 2 dc M
Toni (See Peggy's Toni)				
Tony	2831	4/22/76	House of Violets	R 3 df S
Top Angel (See Val's Top Angel)				
Trinket White Caps	3214	9/25/77	Champion AV	WL-B-E 39 s S-M

U

Ulli (See Ballet Ulli)

V

Valarie Lynn	2818	4/17/76	S. L. Brown	L-PX 56 d S
Valentine	3044	11/8/76	V. Lorenzen (Park N)	R 239 dc S
Val's Sweet Dream	3247	11/25/77	Gertrude Pesson	L-P 279 d S
Val's Top Angel	3248	11/25/77	Gertrude Pesson	PX 59 df L
Val's Winsome Pink	3249	11/25/77	Gertrude Pesson	PW-E 35 d L
Variegated Gorgeous (See Maas' Variegated Gorgeous)				
Velvet Queen	3045	11/8/76	V. Lorenzen (Park N)	D-B 239 d S
Velvet Ribbons	2788	2/17/76	Irene Fredette	PR-E 2 sc S
Vern's Blue Chips	2046	11/8/76	V. Lorenzen (Park N)	D-B 29 dc S
Vern's Blue Heaven	3047	11/8/76	V. Lorenzen (Park N)	M-B 29 dc S
Vern's Flash	3048	11/8/76	V. Lorenzen (Park N)	M-BW-E 289 dc S
Vern's French Lace	3049	11/8/76	V. Lorenzen (Park N)	BWC 239 d S
Vern's Masterpiece	3050	11/8/76	V. Lorenzen (Park N)	D-P 239 d S
Vern's Moonbeam	3051	11/8/76	V. Lorenzen (Park N)	L-P 239 s-dc S

Vern's Red Velvet	3052	11/8/76	V. Lorenzen (Park N)	D-R 29 d S
Vern's Summer Skies	3053	11/8/76	V. Lorenzen (Park N)	L-B 239 dc S
Vern's Telstar	3054	11/8/76	V. Lorenzen (Park N)	BWC 289 dc S
Vern's White Cheer	3055	11/8/76	V. Lorenzen (Park N)	W 39 d S
Vern's White Knight	3056	11/8/76	V. Lorenzen (Park N)	W 239 dc S
Vern's Zodie	3057	11/8/76	V. Lorenzen (Park N)	WRC 239 d M
Very Peachy	2814	3/9/76	House of Violets	L-PX 3 df S
Very Raspberry	2815	3/9/76	House of Violets	P-O 3 d S
Viola Tucker	3232	10/24/77	Granger G	D-PW-E 4 df S
Volkmann's Cloud Pink	3221	9/25/77	Volkmann Bros.	P 2 dc S

W

Ward B (See Suzy's Ward B)				
Westdale Sassy	2790	2/19/76	Irene Haseltine	OX 2 s S
White Cheer (See Vern's White Cheer)				
White Heritage	2777	1/5/76	Tinari	W or WO 35 df S
White Knight (See Vern's White Knight)				
Wildfire (See Granger's Wildfire)				
Winsome Pink (See Val's Winsome Pink)				
Winter Grape	2789	2/17/76	Irene Fredette	OX 27 s&s-df S

Z

Zodie (See Vern's Zodie)

AFRICAN VIOLET (Saintpaulia) SPECIES

genus *Saintpaulia* H. Wendland in *Gartenflora*, xlii, 321, t. 1391 & Fig. 66

(1893)

<i>S. brevopilosa</i>	B. L. Burtt	1964	<i>S. nitida</i>	B. L. Burtt	1958
<i>S. confusa</i>	B. L. Burtt	1958	<i>S. orbicularis</i>	B. L. Burtt	1947
<i>S. difficilis</i>	B. L. Burtt	1958	<i>S. orbicularis</i>		
<i>S. diplotricha</i>	B. L. Burtt	1947	var. <i>purpurea</i>	B. L. Burtt	1964
<i>S. goetzeana</i>	Engler	1900	<i>S. pendula</i>	B. L. Burtt	1958
<i>S. grandifolia</i>	B. L. Burtt	1958	<i>S. pendula</i>		
<i>S. grotei</i>	Engler	1921	var. <i>kizarae</i>	B. L. Burtt	1964
<i>S. inconspicua</i>	B. L. Burtt	1958	<i>S. pusilla</i>	Engler	1900
<i>S. intermedia</i>	B. L. Burtt	1958	<i>S. rupicola</i>	B. L. Burtt	1964
<i>S. ionantha</i>	H. Wendland	1893	<i>S. shumensis</i>	B. L. Burtt	1955
<i>S. magungensis</i>	E. P. Roberts	1950	<i>S. teitensis</i>	B. L. Burtt	1958
<i>S. magungensis</i>			<i>S. tongwensis</i>	B. L. Burtt	1947
var. <i>minima</i>	B. L. Burtt	1964	<i>S. velutina</i>	B. L. Burtt	1958
<i>S. magungensis</i>					
var. <i>occidentalis</i>	B. L. Burtt				

African Violet Fever

By Marion Desmond

The "Fever of Violets" I am inclined to Saintpaulias, I mean, not the common kind . . . can one be content with a single plant . . . to acquire more is my purpose, I fear, until they are crowding my atmosphere . . . I constantly hear the other lament, what! you've purchased more plants? when will you relent! . . . and let us have room for our little things, like dishes and cups and maybe a bowl . . . You know it's becoming quite a bore, we really enjoy your lovely plants, too . . . but be forced to eat our meals in the hall? it's really too much for a family's morale! . . . The table is covered most of the time with all kinds of pots and all the supplies! . . . we know you mean well, aren't really uncaring, but

Mom, take it easy! we're here, too, and sharing . . . why did you attend the latest show? your will power is low when attending these functions . . . more violets become your only compunction . . . this means you'll need charcoal, sponge rock, soil . . . where will it all end, or better yet still, may I take the plants off my windowsill . . . while I'm talking about it may I give you a tip! get rid of the fertilizers that smell like fish . . . I know you said the cost isn't much but the assault on my nose is a price I begrudge . . . did I hear you right, what was it you said? It's only a hobby, many others share, too . . . but is it? . . . The Fever has gotten to you!

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC. 32nd Annual Convention



Capitol Building



Governor's Mansion

**Stéphen F. Austin Hotel
and
Driskill Hotel**

**Theme: "Deep in the Heart of Texas"
April 10-15, 1978
Austin, Texas**

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Registration Hours

Mon. 1 - 9 pm

Tue. 8 - 9:30 am

Tue. 4 - 9 pm

Wed. 7:30-9:30 am

Wed. 2 - 9 pm

Thur. 8 am - 4:30 pm

Thur. 9 - 10 pm

Fri. 8 am - 4:30 pm

TOURS

Monday, April 10

Tour A - Austin Area Garden Center Mini-shuttle bus

Departure

Leave hotel
promptly at
1, 2, and 3 pm

Return

Pick up at
Garden Center
2, 3, and 4 pm

Tuesday, April 11

Tour B - San Antonio - Alamo, river boat ride, lunch

8:15 am

4:30 pm

Tour C - Hill Country, LBJ Ranch, Early 1900 working farm
picnic lunch

8:15 am

4:30 pm

Tour D - Commodore Boat Ride up the river to Greenshores
barbecue dinner - Dixieland band on board

4:45 pm

9:30 pm

Wednesday, April 12

Tour E - San Antonio - Alamo, river boat ride, lunch

8:15 am

4:30 pm

Tour F - Hill Country, LBJ Ranch, Early 1900 working farm,
picnic lunch

8:15 am

4:30 pm

Tour G - Panoramic City Tour

1:45 pm

5:00 pm

Thursday, April 13

Tour H - Austin Area Garden Center and Austin Homes

8:45 am

12:00 noon

Tour I - City Tour of Historical Austin

8:45 am

12:00 noon

Tour J - Shopping trip to Highland Mall - No charge

10:45 am

3:00 pm

12:15 PM

4:00 pm

Tour K - Panoramic City Tour

1:45 pm

5:00 pm

Friday, April 15

Tour L - LBJ Library and University of Texas

8:15 am

11:30 am

BOARD MEETINGS

Tuesday 8:00 pm to adjournment; Wednesday 9:00 am to adjournment; Saturday 11:00 am to adjournment.

JUDGING SCHOOL - Wednesday, April 12

Registration 7:45 - 8:00 am—Lecture 8:00 am - 12:00 noon — Examination 2:00 - 3:30 pm
Teacher, Mrs. Henry Bircher

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Saturday 9:00 - 11:00 am

CONVENTION SHOW INFORMATION

Entries accepted, Amateur and Commercial

Wednesday 2:00 - 9:00 pm

Thursday 8:00 - 10:00 am

Committee available to check out entries

Friday 12 midnight - 1:00 am

Saturday 8:00 am - 10:00 am

Commercial Sales Room Open

Wednesday 10:00 am - 10:00 pm

Thursday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

9:00 pm - midnight

Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

9:00 pm - midnight

Judges and Clerks

Thursday 1:00 - 2:00 pm, Instruction

2:00 pm Judging

Convention Show Open

Thursday 9:00 pm - midnight

AVSA members only

Friday 9:00 - 5:00 pm

Public and AVSA members

Friday 9:30 pm - midnight

AVSA members only

SOCIAL HOURS, MEALS AND PROGRAMS

Wednesday 8:00 pm Slide show - repeat at 9:00 pm

8:30 - 9:30 pm Hospitality Hour

Thursday 5:30 - 6:30 pm Reception and Happy Hour - Cash bar - Punch

6:30 pm Dinner - Speaker, Richard E. Norris, PhD Candidate, Texas A&M University

"Salinity Program with Light and Water Tank Demonstration"

Friday 12:30 pm Luncheon - "New Introductions", Mrs. Duane Champion

5:30 - 6:30 pm President's Reception and Receiving Line - Cash Bar - Punch

6:30 pm Banquet Entertainers: Mariachi Band and Dancers

WORKSHOPS

Note: Entrance tickets required for Workshops (A), (B), (C), (D), (E). See Registration Chairman. No charge except for breakfast workshops.

Thursday:

7:30 - 9:15 am Teachers Breakfast Workshop (Teachers ONLY), Mrs. James B. Carey

8:00 - 9:00 am (A) "Energy, Efficiency, Enervation in a Plant Room", Sundown and Hortense Pittman

9:30 - 10:30 am (B) "Texas Style Growing", Mrs. R. T. Davis

11:00 am - 12:00 noon (C) "Insects Affecting African Violets, Dr. Charles L. Cole

Friday:

7:30 - 9:15 am Judges and Exhibitors Breakfast Workshop, Mrs. James B. Carey

8:00 am - 12:00 noon Commercial Members Breakfast Workshop

9:30 - 10:30 am (D) "High Drama in Arrangements" Mrs. Terrance R. Leary

10:45 - 11:30 am (E) "How African Violet Trailers are Grown, Groomed and Judged" Mrs. Sidney Bogin

3:30 - 4:30 pm Parliamentarian available for conference, Mrs. Thos. Edmundson

3:30 to adjournment Affiliate Publications Editors' Meeting, "Techniques of Page Layouts", Edward Bradford

Saturday:

At Annual Business Meeting, "The Rest of the Family", Mr. Raymond Schuck



MRS. MARVIN GARNER
... for president



MRS. W. J. KROGMAN
... for 1st vice-president



HARVEY L. STONE
... for 2nd vice-president



MRS. J.A.W. RICHARDSON
... for 3rd vice-president



FLORENCE M. GARRITY
... for treasurer



MRS. "E" HANSEN
... for secretary



MRS. RALPH D. CAVA
... for director



PENELOPE ANN BRENNER
... for director



EDITH PETERSON
... for director



MRS. FRED C. YOUNG
... for director



MRS. JOHN LACKNER
... for director

1978 AVSA NOMINEES. . .

The following slate of officers for 1978-1979 will be presented at the annual business meeting in Austin, TX, Saturday, April 15, by Mrs. Sidney Bogin, nominating committee chairman:

Mrs. Marvin (Gene) Garner, North Canton, OH, for election as president. Gene has been active in both AVSA and State AVS. She is past president of the AVS of Canton and Ohio State, past board member and officer of the Canton Garden Club. Her AVSA offices include vice president, director, past Booster Fund chairman, membership and promotion committee member, and Library chairman.

Gene also is an AVSA judge, Ohio State Judges' Council member, AVSA Life Member and participates in AGGS activities.

Mrs. Wm. J. (Adeline) Krogman, Brookfield, WI for election as first vice president. Adeline has served

AVSA in many capacities including the offices of vice president, secretary, director, membership and promotion chairman and 1970 Milwaukee convention chairman.

She is a lifetime judge, judging school teacher and assistant to shows and judges chairman, Ruth Carey, registering judging schools. Adeline is an AVSA Commercial member.

In her home state of Wisconsin she is a past president of the Wisconsin Council AVC, the organizer of many new societies, and also is a well known speaker for groups in neighboring states.

The Ruth Carey award for affiliate leadership was presented to her in 1971.

Harvey L. Stone of Marblehead, MA for election as second vice president. He is currently serving as Library chairman. Using his ability as an amateur

photographer, Harvey has been a well known member of the Library committee. He also has served as an AVSA director, and has been an active judge for 10 years.

Harvey served as secretary of the Bay State Judges' Council and is a member of the North Shore and Bay State AV Societies. He and his wife own and operate Harbor Town Flowers of Marblehead since his retirement as an Air Traffic Controller.

Mrs. J. A. W. (Ann) Richardson, Tavares, FL for election as third vice president. Ann is best known to AVSAers for her 'Beginners Column' in the African Violet Magazine. She has a long history of participation in African violet affairs, having founded four clubs, including one in the Bahamas.

New Englanders know her as a charter member of the Bay State AVS (a council). She later became its president. At that same time she was also show chairman for the 1967 Convention in Boston, hosted by Bay State.

Southerners know her as convention chairman for the 1976 AVSA Convention in Atlanta, GA hosted by the DAVS. At this time Ann is AVSA convention program chairman and it is her responsibility to work with local chairman to see that convention programs are put together and run smoothly. Ann is also a judging school teacher.

Miss Florence M. Garrity, Rosalindale, MA for election as treasurer. With a background as a foreign teller with the First National Bank of Boston, Florence has experience for her position as treasurer of AVSA. She also has served AVSA as a director, the 1975 Boston convention chairman and as a member of the membership and promotion committee.

Her local activities include being a director of the MA Horticultural Society and she has presented an AVSA exhibit in the society's spring shows since 1970.

She is an AVSA Life Member, founder and past president of Trimount AVS, a member of Nutmeg, Bay State, RI and NY societies and was the membership secretary of the Bay State Society.

Mrs. Elisabeth H. ("E") Hansen, Jenkintown, PA, for election as secretary. The AVS of Philadelphia and the AVS of Lower Bucks County are the local clubs Mrs. Hansen has memberships in. She has served as recording secretary, 2nd vice president, show chairman and AVSA representative in these societies. She is an AVSA lifetime judge, Life Member and teacher.

She also has served as an AVSA director and on the following AVSA committees: membership and promotion, convention program, publications, stan-

ding rules, shows and judges, and yearbook judging coordinator.

"E" is also a member of the Liberty Bell Chapter of AGGS and is a senior judge of AGGS.

Mrs. Ralph D. (Vivian) Cava of North Haledon, NJ, for election as a director. She has been active in many African violet Societies and has served as first vice-president of the New Jersey Council of AV Judges, first vice-president and treasurer of the North Jersey AVS, first vice-president and a senior judge for AGGS. She belongs to the Clifton AVS and the New York State AVS. She has been Show Chairman for many of these societies and did the theme for the AVSA Convention in New York in 1972. Vivian has been growing violets for the past 25 years and has taken many top awards in various shows.

Penelope Ann Brenner of New Orleans, LA for election as a director. She is pre-convention chairman for AVSA, New Orleans, 1980. She has served as president of the First New Orleans AVS, is an AVSA judge, and has served on many committees for Dixie AVS and Aurora Plantation Gardeners.

Penelope was an operating nurse for many years and is now working for CRNA. She finds it particularly relaxing after a trying day of giving anesthesia to work with her African violets and lose herself in their beauty.

Miss Edith Peterson, San Francisco, CA for election as a director. Edith served as AVSA president from 1974-1976. The board will gain much benefit from her knowledge and wisdom. A violet grower since 1954, Edith is a past president of the AVS of San Francisco and the Northern California Council of African Violet Societies. She served as chairman in 1962 and vice chairman in 1971 of AVSA conventions in San Francisco.

Edith has served AVSA in many capacities as director, secretary, nominating committee chairman, convention program chairman, and vice presidents. In 1972 she received a plaque and a Life Membership from the San Francisco AVS in appreciation of her many services.

Mrs. Fred C. (Frances) Young of Austin, TX for election as a director. Frances is currently serving as president of the First Austin AVS and also serving as show chairman for the 1978 AVSA Convention in Austin. She is an AVSA judge and has given numerous culture programs on African violets to garden clubs and on local TV educational stations.

She has a collection of over 500 African violets grown under lights and especially enjoys growing Episcia Cleopatra.

Mrs. John (Amy) Lackner of Little Canada, MN

for election as a director. An AVSA Life Member and a judge, Amy has been growing violets since 1952 with brief interruptions while in France and Germany. A past president of the AVS of Minnesota, she is a member of the Viking Violettes, the AVS of Canada, the Bay State AVS and a charter member of the Twin Cities Chapter of America Gloxinia and Gesneria Society.

Amy served as the AVSA convention chairman in Minneapolis in 1973.

Currently she is treasurer of the AVS of Minnesota and a member of the AVSA Awards Committee.

MORE AWARDS FOR NAMED VARIETIES

Here are some additional varieties, which will receive special awards at the AVSA convention/show in Austin, Tx April 10-15.

The awards are as follows: 'Starshine', AV Study Club of Houston, \$12.50; 'Silver Honey', AV Study Club of Houston, \$12.50; 'Mister Gus', AVS of Beaumont, \$15.

HANGING BASKETS IN AVSA SHOW

There'll be a class for hanging baskets in the AVSA Convention/Show Schedule in Austin, TX, it was learned from D. J. Lidiak, convention vice chairman. They are to be entered in Sec. VII, Class 31c.

It was explained that because of the anticipated need for table space, stands will be provided to accommodate hanging baskets. If you are planning to exhibit in this category, please leave the chain or wire in place enabling the basket to be suspended on the stand.

HUNTING FOR MVL NO. 1 OR 2?

Some members are trying to buy copies of the early Master Variety Lists — Number 1 and Number 2. The AVSA office has sold out of these. The only MVL in stock is Number 3, published in 1976.

Mrs. Dale Andrews advertised in the magazine for a copy and had more response from members who also wanted to buy a copy than from members who offered a copy for sale.

Is a reprint feasible? Such a reprint would be expensive but possible if enough members are interested to warrant the investment. Mrs. Andrews is willing to compile a list of members who want a copy of either list to determine how many members are interested, and will report to the AVSA Board at the Austin convention for consideration.

If you are searching for but haven't found the copy you want and would like to add your name to list of members who want a copy, write to Mrs. Dale Andrews, 3830 Colina Lane, Waco, TX 76705. Do it before convention rolls around!

BEGINNER'S LUCK

Elizabeth L. Boudreau

3 Price St.

Hopkinton, MA 01748

On a visit with my husbands' aunt a little over a year ago, she showed me her African violets. Since I was not a plant lover at the time, I was not overly impressed. However, I was finally talked into taking just one plant home with me. The plant was just a plain pink, with no name, and nothing very special about it. It had lost a couple of leaves and I had heard how easy they were to root, so I tried rooting them in water; no luck, just rot. Finally after trying them in soil they took. My African violet family quickly grew to about 30 plants. I was so proud, I couldn't believe my luck with them.

One day I noticed my plants were becoming stunted and distorted. After visiting several florists, who assured me it was only my lighting set-up, I tried many new bulbs and different heights from the plants to see if it would help. NO LUCK!!!

Finally, while looking through my African Violet Magazines, I came across an article, "Of Cats and Mice", written by Mrs. C. W. Beattie (JAN 77). There it was, in front of me. Disease and treatment of mites. And by this time they had a very bad case. Being new to African violets, I wasn't able to recognize them quickly. I immediately treated every one of the plants with Kelthane, in a wash, by dunking the entire plant.

It wasn't overnight that I saw a difference, but with a lot of love, attention, and time, my plants are beautiful again. They have repaid me many times over for all my time and work.

I now have over 150 plants and have turned my husband into an African violet lover also! Our big hope is to someday enter a plant in a show and just maybe win a ribbon. Even without winning, their constant beauty is a reward in itself.

VERBS TO VIOLETS

In 1970 Donald Baker left Yale University and went to teach French literature at Emory University in Atlanta, GA. Having a doctorate from such a prestigious institution seemed to open limitless vistas in teaching for Dr. Baker. He enjoyed teaching very much but soon reductions in Federal aid to education and declining enrollment in modern languages forced sharp cutbacks in the university program. The professors with tenure could not be let go — but many of the younger members of the staff were dismissed. Dr. Baker was among these.

Both Mrs. Baker, a librarian by trade, and he wanted to remain in Atlanta, where they had bought a home. So they declined teaching offers from out-of-state.

"This was a fateful decision," Dr. Baker declared, "because it meant that all my years of training were negated and that I would have to find entry into the job market with no marketable skills."

So they turned to African violets. He went on to say:

"Our African violet collection numbered about 60 varieties and had been a hobby for both of us for several years. In Atlanta we had not been able to find the unusual types of violets that we had purchased from Buell's Greenhouses in Connecticut. Since we were already out on a limb, we decided to try to make our way in violets because we enjoyed working with them so much. There would always be time to try the more conventional avenues such as real estate or insurance. My wife went to work full time and I took a large newspaper route to expand our basement operation, where we grew our plants under fluorescent lights. It was a rude shock to be called 'paper boy' instead of 'Dr. Baker', but, at least, I didn't have to worry about losing this job. Nobody else wanted it."

It wasn't long before the Bakers found a ready market for their violets, selling to Sears, Penney's, garden shops and specialty shops.

"We did have problems in production, however," he added. "As we put more and more fluorescent lights in our basement, the temperature rose to the point where the small fans which had been adequate in the past could no longer keep the plants cool enough for flowering. Every last plant went out of flower in July 1973. We didn't know what had happened, and finally we invested our last penny in an air conditioner without knowing whether it would solve our problem. It did, but the following summer we contracted cyclamen mite from another grower and didn't know what we had. Our plants were examined on three different occasions by the Georgia Department of Agriculture, and each time they told

us we had a fungus problem. The last time we were inspected the inspector was quite concerned that some of our plants were turning yellow and white in the center. They were variegates."

Some good things happened, too. The Bakers expanded their operations in 1975 and built a greenhouse just outside of Atlanta. They had a commercial table at the AVSA convention in Atlanta in 1976 and were gratified by the responses they received. There they became acquainted with the Rev. Chas. Blades, who shared his hybridizing tips with them. Their imagination was fired! They'd hybridize, too!

Here's Dr. Baker's account of his hybridizing:

"I had tried to make some crosses in the past, but I was probably overeager and tried to apply the pollen before the pistil was ready. None had ever taken. Once 'Rhapsodie Ruth' developed a seed pod on its own and I sowed the seed, impatiently. What I got back was so inferior to the parent plant that I was very discouraged. Rev. Blades suggested that I cross onto a single pink star, the most recessive color and flower form. We decided to use the Rhapsodie stars as our mother plants after a few false starts trying to cross onto frilly double greens, fat double pinks, and other hopeless endeavors.

"Our interest in hybridizing was centered around putting the flowers of recessive traits developed by the American hybridizers on those enormously strong Rhapsodie stems. The Rhapsodies' success in the marketplace led us to believe that those long lasting flowers were the prime requisite in any violet. On the other hand, the colors in the Rhapsodie and Ballet violets had been so limited to date that a showy flower on that stem would be the consumer's choice. The other consideration which led us to hybridize was that, despite the abundance of plants offered by the American hybridizers each year, we could not buy enough of the type of plant our customers preferred. We wanted more, deeper, and frillier reds, corals, fantasies, greens, bicolours, and variegates. What we did not want were pinks, purples, and blues."

Dr. Baker and the Rev. Blades had a collection of some 500 plants from which to choose in their hybridizing. With the fervor of new converts they began crossing furiously. In fact, they made, and still make, an average of five crosses per day. Out of this, perhaps two will yield viable seed, Dr. Baker said.

"The percentage is highest in fall and spring, lowest in summer, he explained. "Honestly, after reading tales of the difficulty of hybridizing in the **AVSA Magazine** and elsewhere, we felt that we had to make an enormous number of crosses to get even a

few worthwhile plants. Last year we sowed about 50,000 seeds and selected about 5,000 of the seedlings to grow to flowering. No matter how many seeds are in a sowing we grow out only 18 to 24, except in an especially promising cross, where we might grow out 36. We may occasionally miss a good plant doing this, but we feel we have a better chance of hitting a winner by growing out another cross than by growing out more seedlings in a particular cross. In addition, if a cross does not yield a marketable plant, we may use it to cross with further, and so we still have the genetic pool."

The first seedling to bloom was 'Spunky' a cross with Rhapsodie 'Gigi'. The Bakers waited anxiously — for a tiny washed out purple single, which dropped off about three days after it opened.

"We were sick", he went on. "Happily the blooms improved remarkably, and soon we were flooded with more exciting color variations than we had dreamed possible. That 'Spunky'/'Gigi' cross did finally yield 'Winkle', a frilly white semidouble with a dark blue edge. It is a good example of what we hoped to accomplish. Even small specimens produce 12 to 16 buds per stem, and the stems hold rigidly erect. The plant covers itself with showy flowers."

But this flood of plants developed has led to unforeseen problems. The Bakers have had to limit their list of varieties to 250 because the more vigorous plants had to be given precedence. They had to close their retail shop because so much time had to be spent with the seedlings. They are planning to introduce a goodly number of plants this spring and fall and as an incentive for growing the new plants, the Bakers are planning to offer prizes at the 1979 AVSA convention.

BURGLARS, TOO, LIKE VIOLETS

*Roma Wilson
708 Interdrive
St. Louuis, MO 63130*

Last week when my husband, John, and I returned home in the early evening, I noticed my cat Pollyanna sitting on the floor, on a piece of fabric that I had bought earlier in the day and laid on a chair. I thought it odd that she had pulled the material out of

the bag and had it on the floor. Although cats do strange things, I had never seen either of mine pull a trick like this. As I reached for the fabric, I saw broken plaster scattered on the floor. I immediately guessed what had happened. Our apartment had been burglarized.

We found the door facing off, but the front door was still locked. Upon investigating further, we learned that our landlord, who lives downstairs, had discovered the break in, had come up and closed the back door which had been left open, fixed the lock on the front door and called the police. All of this happened between 5:30 when we left and 6:00 o'clock when the janitor came to clean the front hall. He had discovered the lock lying on the hall floor and reported it to the landlord.

We now began to look around to see what was gone. To my great surprise, apparently the only things missing were 32 of my African violet plants. These had been picked at random, from the living room window sills, from the back sunroom, and from the fluorescent light stand in the dining room. I was nearly cleaned out of miniatures; and a trailer, which was a new plant to me, and several species plants were gone. They probably were carried out in the grocery bags I save to put my trash in — every one was gone.

Several days later I discovered several African Violet Magazines, a "how to" book, and three cans of fertilizer were also missing.

John and I left the morning following the break in, just before noon, to do some errands, thinking the rest of the plants were safe, now that the thief had "his" violets. Not so!

When we returned about 3:30, there under the growth lights were empty saucers where I had worked late the evening before filling the empty spaces with plants from the back sunroom. This time 33 more plants were gone, including some beautiful large plants that I had disbudded in preparation for the coming African violet show sponsored by the Metropolitan St. Louis African Violet Society.

The African violet show is always open to the public, but the public didn't see Roma Wilson's 'Madonna', 'Pink Miriam Steel', or 'County Belle'. These, my best plants, were with someone else. . . .

African violet club members are good friends, and since my unhappy loss I have received a number of gift plants from a fellow member, and a well-known violet grower, Neva Anderson. Neva was afraid that I would have no plants to enter in the show.

Oh, yes, I forgot to mention that the second time the burglar opened my apartment door to take my violets, he also opened a can of cat food and fed Pollyanna and her mother, Kit Kat. So maybe he isn't all bad; maybe he just loves violets like I do.

IN MEMORIAM

Adeline Barta

It was learned with sadness of the passing of Mrs. Adeline Barta on Nov. 2, 1977 after a lengthy illness. She was a local member of the San Francisco African Violet Society.

Evelyn H. Varick

Nutmeg State AVS members were saddened by the death of their past president, Evelyn H. Varick on Nov. 16, 1977. She was a longtime grower of African violets and was also a past president of the Thimble Islands and Sparkling Waters AV Societies. She was an AVSA judge and a Life Member. She was also a member of New York State AVS, Bay State AVS and Bay States Judges Council.

At the time of her death she was secretary of the Milford (CT) Chamber of Commerce, a position she had held for 22 years. She was also an Eastern Star member. She gave freely of her time and knowledge in growing African violets and was one of those instrumental in forming the Nutmeg State Society.

She is survived by her husband, Edgar F. Varick, who is well known in AVSA, and a daughter, Mrs. George (Mary Elizabeth) Van Dwindela, and three grandchildren.

WRONG COLLECTION

In the account of the Clifton (NJ) AVS show, Mildred Schroeder, Affiliate Chairman, said that the AVSA 1st Collection Award, (Gold Rosette) was awarded for the three registered varieties, 'Jim Dandy', 'Ivory Buttons' and 'The King' exhibited by Beatrice Alstein. It was reported incorrectly that the award was made for three Rhapsodies, which are not registered plants, and are not eligible for the Award. Please, Publicity Chairmen, check your awards before sending in your articles.

CORRECTION

We are sorry if we make incorrect listings of presidents of AVSA Affiliates in the November Magazine — BUT, the only way in which Mildred Schroeder, affiliate chairman, can ascertain such names is through YOUR Affiliate — and if these presidents' names are not sent to her, then she lists the names she has on hand.

We are sorry Catherine Rider's name is listed as president of the Long Beach (CA) Club when the president is Betty Anderson, 2947 W. Lincoln, Anaheim, CA 92801.

So Affiliates, as soon as you have election of officers, please send their names to Mrs. Schroeder!

PROPAGATE WITH BLOSSOM STEMS

Marshall Wheeler
Wheeler's African Violets
153 N 7th
Olean, NY 14760

We have been interested in African violets for several years, growing them under lights, gradually improving our stock and cultivation practices. We now carry 150 varieties and about 1,000 plants — a most modest operation. However, the population is large enough to note interesting anomalies, such as double and triple leaves (which reproduce only normal plants), double and triple blossoms (one and two blossoms growing from the center of another), as well as changes of color.

Among our plants are several, grown from seed, which developed "satellite" plants at the end of blossom stems. One of these has produced blossoms itself.

This observation of "satellite" plants, led to speculation that, if a blossom stem would root, and if it developed a growing tip, then another method of propagation would be available, which would not affect plant symmetry. Until now, leaf removal was necessary to maintain our stock.

It seemed logical to select a young blossom stem for experimentation, as when a bloom matures without being fertilized, the plant is signaled to discard it. Buds and any blossoms are removed, the stems then placed in water, as with leaves, covered with a polyethylene bag, and placed 6 inches from a light tube. Roots formed in 17 to 19 days. The stem was then potted. Water was used merely to note if and when roots formed. Stems placed directly in potting mixture did as well as those rooted in water. Growing centers developed at the junction of the stem and stem leaflets. Apparently, blossom stems are like the plant trunk in its reproduction cycle rather than leaves.

We have a plant that occasionally produces triple blossoms, the stem carrying one of these has been set. It will be interesting if the resulting plant produces triple blossoms more frequently than the parent.

KEEP PLANTS CLEAN

Keep your plants clean by removing spent blossoms and aging leaves. Not only will the plants be more attractive, but they will be healthier. Wilted flowers can cause leaf spot and decaying leaves could invite fungus growth on your violet plants.

EVALUATING EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS

*Christine D. Leppard
807 Aspen Drive
Rochester, MI 48063*

DO's

1. Learn to l-o-o-k at the educational exhibit. Think about its theme — not your idea of a theme. See how well it is carried out.

2. Study the content to determine if it teaches the novice, the nongrower, about African violets. Too technical or too much material may be inappropriate.

3. Does it have AVSA culture sheets?

4. Is the lettering crisp and clear? Does it explain? Does the exhibit look clean? Is all plant material healthy?

5. Ask if there will be someone on duty to answer questions. Perhaps the club plans a special in-show program for 20 minutes - on potting, on setting down a leaf for propagation? Consider any extra effort the society has gone to.

DON'Ts

1. Don't insist every educational table be about a culture theme. A society may pick any theme having

to do with African violets. If the theme is well done, there is no need for there to even be a violet on the table.

2. Don't judge exhibit plants horticulturally. Cleanliness is important, but symmetry and floriferousness have nothing to do with the 10 points given for the SSA on the educational exhibit.

3. Don't neglect the education table until the end when everyone is tired. It is not an afterthought. All judges should participate in this part of the judging. Unlike perhaps when judging gesneriads or design, a judge should never decline to participate in so important a part of a show.

4. Don't forget to ask if there is an award of appreciation from the society which judges may award. If there isn't, the panel may recommend one.

5. Finally, don't use that table's space to drape your coat, store your books, or hold your purse or briefcase. That table is every bit as much an exhibit as an arrangement. No judge would dream of putting a purse in a niche - don't do the same to the educational exhibit.

Don't Throw Away The Throwaways

*Jan MacDonald
1604 16th Street
Brownwood, Texas 76801*

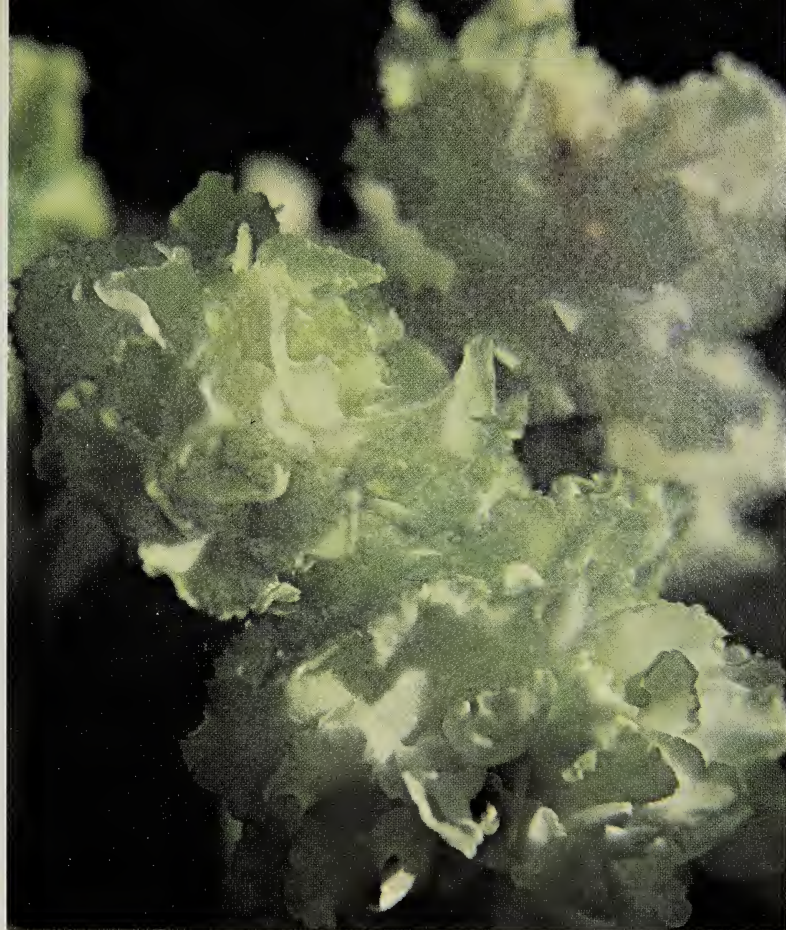
Have you ever attended the spring flower shows and were awed at all the beautiful designs and arrangements? Then as you consider what you've seen, you think to yourself—"I could do that!" or "Why didn't I think of that?"

Well, like so many of us, we just don't think about it at that particular time when we're throwing away our empty toothpaste tube to "Keep the cap!" Or when you eat out: "Save that little plastic tub which holds the tartar sauce."

But, after attending a recent Lone Star AV Council meeting in Dallas, Texas, I decided to start a "Throw Away" box. At this meeting, a Texas Garden Club Life Judge, Mrs. Charles Mitchell, gave a brief demonstration on arrangements and showed some of those extra little hints which help beginners learn the secrets of those beautiful arrangements. She explained how she had used 3 tiny toothpaste caps wrapped in tape to match the color scheme to divide the base

of one arrangement. This gave it the added height it needed for balance and we'd never have guessed what she had used! Also hints on how to use different size caps and lids for holders for flowers instead of using expensive florist holders.

So, as you see—you can let your imagination run wild! Become a regular pack rat and start a "throw away" box of your own. Save things such as toothpaste caps, spray can tops, tiny cream or tartar sauce containers, plastic dessert cups, various sizes and colors of lids and jars, and tiny bottles. Also, any odd branches, leaves, tree fungus (dried naturally), moss, marbles, sea shells, and especially those bits and pieces of pretty rocks and stones that you might find while out walking. Who knows — that might be just what you'll need to make that prize winning entry for the next show or the next AVSA Convention.



FREDETTE'S

Notice the unusual
lighting effects
on two photographs
furnished by Fredette

•

The lighting may
have caused some color
distortion but the plant
effect and colors are
unusual

PISTACHIO

GEMINESSE



Do you know Louis and Cecile Ambler?

They live in a comfortable hilltop house in Orinda, CA with a Dalmatian, three kittens, two cats, a cuckoo clock that plays "The Blue Danube" — and 888 African violets!!

And they like it! Louis is a big man with a hearty laugh. Cecile is a small woman with eyes that twinkle when she talks. They've entered what some people call the Golden Years. Louis, a federal government retiree, became interested in African violets after the couple had returned from a trip around the world. Cecile's involvement stems from an automobile accident when she broke her back.

"I couldn't reach or bend over, so everything had to be done from table level," she explained. "But I couldn't sit still all the time, so I started fiddling with these violets. Louis would bring me information home about them and became an AVSA member so we could get the African Violet Magazine. Then he showed me how to make a cross, a hybrid. Now we both have hybridized violets as a result."

The violets have virtually taken over the house. They bloom in the dining room, in the kitchen, in the bedrooms, in the closets. They are in pots under fluorescent lights and in containers in the windows catching the fleeting rays of the sun.

Cecile and her grandchildren had been operating a bookshop in Berkeley and when she closed that down, Louis used lumber he found around the shop to build light tables and stands for the violets.

"Also since the kids aren't living with us any more, we turned one whole bedroom over to the violets," he said. "Y'know it's getting more and more difficult to get into that room."

Like many couples with a mutual hobby, the Amblers divide up the work. Cecile deals with the small plants and their propagation. Louis handles the bigger ones and the grooming process necessary to get them ready for a show.

The most serious problem is deciding how to get rid of plants. Invariably, it seems if Cecile says she wants to dispose of a violet, Louis' reply is "Oh, no, you can't. I like that one". Or the other way around. As a result, the Amblers' house is like a bucket that keeps filling up with water — with no end in sight!

To check for soil mealy bugs, take the plant out of the pot and dip the root system in very warm tap water. The soil mealy bugs should separate from the soil and float to the top of the water.



DESIGN WINNER — Mrs. H. S. Hutchins III was winner of sweepstakes in design at the annual show, "The Sound of Music", of the Violet Harmony Club of Fort Worth. Dr. David Fuchshuber was show chairman. Other award winners were as follows: Best in Show, 'Whisper Rose', AVSA Collection (Gold Rosette) 'Green Ice', 'Mary D', 'Grand Duke', best miniature, 'Dolly Dimple', best double, 'Watercolor', best single, 'Parson's Love', best variegated foliage, 'Happy Harold', W. B. Stallings; AVSA Collection (Purple Rosette) 'Vern's Delight', 'Swiss Ballet', 'Shining Plumage', Mrs. Leland Rex; sweepstakes in horticulture (29), best companion plant 'Diastema quinquevulnerum', best trailer, 'Gypsy Trail', Maxine Beam; best in design terrarium, "My Favorite Things", Mrs. W. J. Ritmanich; club project award, Mrs. Juanez Holt; educational exhibit, Mrs. Claude Parman; staging Mrs. Gordon Nettleton; special award horticulture 'Jiminy Cricket', Dr. D. Fuchshuber.

Remove spent or dead blooms from plants. Double blooming violets do not drop their spent blooms like single flowering ones do. Removing the dead flowers will strengthen and increase size of other blooms to come.

Easy—Made Hothouse

Dr. Alvin W. Shultz
Suite 212 - 4121 West 83rd St.
Prairie Village, KS 66208

In reading many articles in the AVSA magazine about rooting leaves and then covering the leaves with plastic bags to hold in the moisture, I thought that I would pass on my easy method of making a hothouse from plastic shoe boxes or if a larger size is wanted to use sweater boxes. These can be obtained at any department store.

1. Obtain two boxes and save one lid.
2. Cut out the inside of the lid leaving about only $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch around the rim, so enough is left to just hold one of the boxes. (Fig. 1).

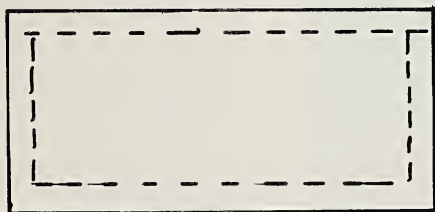


Fig. 1

Place the box upside down on the lid (top side up) so that it is centered all the way around. Using plastic cement or household glue, carefully glue the box to the lid. (Fig. 2). The lid will be upside down when the



Fig. 2

box is turned right side up, forming a perfect groove in which the other box will rest.

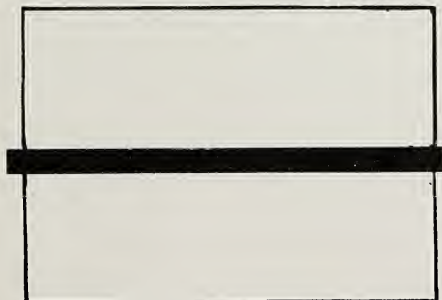


Fig. 3

Place the other box upside down in groove and you have a miniature greenhouse! (Fig 3)



WIN ROSETTES — Three of the top winners in the Red River AVS show held in Sherman, TX were L to R, Mrs. Howard Bridges, horticulture sweepstakes; Mrs. Henry Duncan, creativity award winner; and Mrs. Roger Davis, AVSA Standard Show Award winner. "Texas Violet Trails" was the theme of the show, featuring a large Texas star with violet trails leading from Texas violet societies to Austin where the AVSA convention will be held in April 1978.

Kill Mites With Mites

If your spouse hasn't cursed those tiny unseen critters for destroying a favorite houseplant, then tag along with a farmer or greenhouse grower and garner the professional epithets hurled at spider mites, says Texas Business Magazine, published in Dallas, TX. In an article, captioned "TAMU to the Rescue, or Sic-Em Mighty Mite," Texas Business says:

These severe pests (spider mites) inflict considerable damage to plants, and their growing immunity to pesticides has become a growing concern for agriculturists. A surprising study by Texas A&M scientists suggests fighting mites with mites.

"Spider mites have been successfully eliminated in greenhouse-grown grain sorghum, cotton and peanuts when predator mites (*Phytoseiulus persimilis*) were introduced into the greenhouse," reports the researchers.

The natural predators of the spider mites can survive on no other food source, and will feed on the spider mites until they have disappeared. The predators then die of starvation, says Frank E. Gilstrap of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. If the greenhouse is reinfested, the process can be repeated.

The predators are being successfully multiplied in limited quantities at TAMU, says TAES officials.



V. LORENZEN

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SURPRISE

PINK INTENSITY



GRANGER GARDENS' BEAUTIES

(Photos by Frank Aleksandrowicz)

VIOLA TUCKER



FIRETHORNE



TRY HARMLESS WITCH'S BREW

*Nina Christian
2233 Vistamont Drive
Decatur, GA 30033*

Our violet club was planning a sale in early April last year, and I wanted so much to take some plants, but in December my violets began showing mite symptoms. Broad mites especially have been a recurring problem for me. My plants were growing under lights in three rooms of our home, one being our bedroom. There were about 200 in all, large and small.

During the first part of December the weather was warm enough to take them outside and spray with a miticide every five to seven days, but it soon got too cold and the mites got ahead of me. In desperation I drenched every plant with a well known systemic — $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon in a gallon of water. This was on February 14.

The plants were all kept in plastic bags for a week or two with the hope that the fumes would soon go away. How wrong! The fumes remained and seemed to be in every corner of the house — no escape. After a few more weeks the odor was not so noticeable but there was a constant burning in my mouth like it had been scalded on something very hot. Also there was a nagging nausea. These symptoms got worse every time I watered my plants or handled them or even got close to them. However, the plants were more beautiful every day because all the bugs were gone. Surely I would soon feel better. After all, my husband said he didn't notice any ill effect.

Well, you'll be spared all the details, but as time went by I had a series of frightening reactions I don't even like to remember, and the thought began to occur to me that the violets may have to go. I'd been saying I'd rather die than give up my violets, but one morning it became obvious this was not true at all. An SOS was sent to our club president and she informed the members that all my plants were being sold. She presided at the plant sale that afternoon, because by that time I could not even stand up. The plants which were not sold were all removed from my house by our club president and some of the members, and those dear people held them for me and took them to the club's sale, which was a week later on April 9.

Thank goodness my husband was not affected by the poison. If there had been children in the house it would never have been used in the first place. How dumb to risk our health! I had developed a severe

allergy to that systemic. Even now, nearly a year later, I often get a burning mouth and feeling of nausea for no apparent reason, though sometimes I know there has been contact with something that could have caused it. The condition seems to be slowly improving.

Hopefully, some good has come from it after all. Since any pesticide, even the "safe" ones, were intolerable to me, when my husband read that coriander and anise oil kill mites and aphids, he suggested I give it a try. I began to look for and finally found some ground coriander seeds at a health food store and some anise oil at a drug store, and made a spray of these ingredients. It was used all summer on the new crop of violets started from some leftover leaves. These plants were in my small greenhouse where mites abound. All mite symptoms soon disappeared from every violet baby as well as from all other plants affected by mites, even those on the greenhouse floor. We couldn't believe it! And a bonus — this spray kills mealy bugs and white flies. You can SEE them die. Now all the violets are in the house for the winter and being sprayed every few days with this concoction, which is not only safe to use in the house but has a pleasant fragrance. It will keep for weeks in the refrigerator and can be heated before using, so large amounts can be mixed at a time.

Probably a plant heavily infested with mites could not be cured by this or any other spray, especially a large plant. When isolation is necessary, the plastic bags used for oven cooking seem to "breathe" best. No condensation forms, and a plant may stay in this type bag indefinitely and suffer no shock when removed. Plants on wicks may have their reservoirs in these bags, and they use the liquid almost as fast as they do in the open. The bags come in large "turkey" size which accommodate rather large violets.

It will take some experimenting to tell if this spray is satisfactory as a preventive for mites. The proportions I've been using may need to be altered. If anyone would like to experiment along with me, here are the proportions I use for making the spray: Two tablespoons of finely ground coriander seeds in one quart of water, bring to a boil, boil 3 to 5 minutes, let stand until cool, stirring occasionally. Strain through a coffee filter, adding more water to make a full

quart. Add ¼ teaspoon PURE anise oil (not the kind diluted with mineral oil fishermen use) and ¼ to ½ teaspoon liquid detergent to make the oil and water mix. Use a fine mist spray, being sure to reach the under sides of leaves. A second spraying 30 minutes later would get any little guys that have crawled out into the open. This happens with mealy bugs. The spray has to hit them to kill. In the greenhouse I always followed the coriander-anise oil spray with a clear water spray an hour or so later and never had even a blemished blossom. Indoors some brown spots have occurred when the spray was too strong. Be sure there is a full quart of liquid. It is not necessary to rinse every time, but an occasional rinse would prevent any buildup of oil and detergent.

It is reassuring when you see mealy bugs turn orange or when white flies flatten out and never get up again after a good spraying with this "witch's brew". You hope the same thing is happening to those invisible mites. Only time will tell.

JENSEN'S GARDENS — — — A TRIBUTE

*Andy and Carol Anderson
8515 Flower Street
Bellflower, CA 90706*

Does that name bring forth memories? Almost every month we are reminded by a customer that for 40 years, 9515 Flower St., Bellflower, CA was known by that name.

Wynona Jensen saw her home built here on ½ acre of raw farm land. A 30' x 30' building erected, originally as a henhouse, later converted to a greenhouse on one side with compost and potting rooms on the other side. Mrs. Jensen was tiny, so the rooms built for her required much stooping by Carol (5'9") and me (6'2"). Two glasshouses 6'x8' and 10'x30' were erected and a pleasant trellis covered area placed near the house. Mrs. Jensen was an organizer of the former Tri-Cities African Violet Society, and active in the Begonia and Fuchsia Societies. Many AVSA members visited and corresponded with her over the years. We still get letters addressed to her.

Mrs. Jensen's health required her to move to her daughter's home. When Carol and I first saw the property, it had been vacant for some time, after leasing for a year as an office. The back was a jungle, but we could feel the presence of the love Wynona Jensen had poured into this place at 9515 Flower St., Bellflower, CA.

We moved during Thanksgiving week, 1968.

Truck after truck load of debris was removed. The glasshouses moved from Norwalk and re-erected here. We put in water, gas and electric lines and opened as The Green House, Feb. 1969.

Mrs. Jensen lives with her daughter, Clara, in Orange County, recovered from serious illness. Because of the extensive changes we have made, she has not returned, so we have never met her.

Jensen's Gardens have been gone for over 10 years but Mrs. Jensen's graciousness remains forever.

From A Handful To A Houseful

*Velma V. Dixon
1624 E. Bellevue Pl.
Milwaukee, WI 53211*

Did you ever at one time, have about 40 violet plants and then, three weeks later, have about 500? It happened to me!

I had seen an advertisement in the newspaper that an African violet grower was selling out, so thought I'd like to see them and maybe purchase a few. I made an appointment for the Saturday before Thanksgiving to see the plants. My husband, Don, and daughter, Linda, went along.

Now remember, I wanted a few. To me that would have been five or six plants. Well, when my husband and daughter were turned loose, we ended up with about two dozen starter plants. We took them home, transplanted and watered them, and everyone was doing fine.

About two weeks later, Don asked if that lady still had African violets. I called, and she did, about 450 plants and clumps. We made another appointment. My husband agreed to take them all, puny ones, wilted ones and some trying to grow in one inch of vermiculite. I felt so sorry for these little babies in need of care.

We had our station wagon loaded to the roof with boxes of little plants. We took them home transplanted each one into new soil and separated clumps, potting each little plantlet with tender, loving care.

You should see them now, just two and one-half months later! They are green, perky and growing like weeds. Some of the bigger ones are in bloom and many others are with buds. Soon our basement will be a rainbow.

I'm sure glad my husband, Don, likes these beautiful flowers, otherwise he would be a very neglected man. Thanks to him, I'm having a wonderful time and am looking forward to showing some in the future. I also hope this will encourage others to, as they say, jump in with all four feet. It's fun!!

Towards True Red, Orange and Yellow-Flowering African Violets

-Asexual Hybridization of *Saintpaulia* and *Episcia*-

Peter C. Bilkey² and Brent H. McCown³
University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706

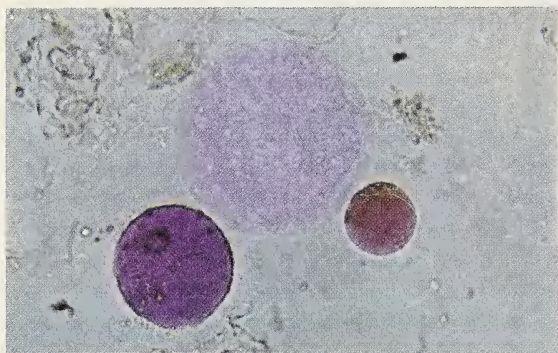


Fig. 1

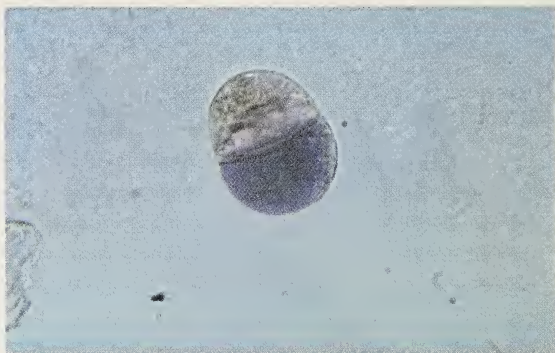


Fig. 2

Figure 1. African Violet and *Episcia* flower petal protoplasts (living single cells with their cell walls removed). The debris consists of partially digested cell walls. Magenta *Saintpaulia* 'Mars'. Lavender *Saintpaulia* 'Ulli'. Orange *Episcia* 'Silver Sheen'. Figure 2. Asexual hybrid of *Saintpaulia* 'Eva' (blue + *Episcia* 'Tropical Topaz' (yellow) from flower petal protoplasts.

For years plant breeders have been trying to produce true red, orange and yellow-flowering African violets. Traditional intra and inter-specific, as well as inter-genetic, hybridization techniques have not been successful towards these goals. Mutation breeding has proven even less encouraging. This lack of success has driven plant scientists to devise techniques to overcome traditional plant breeding problems and find ways of producing the desired true red, orange and yellow flower colors.

The major reason for the plant breeders lack of success is the plant's inherent inability to produce pigments necessary for the production of true red, orange and yellow petals. The African violet, apparently, does not have the genetic capability of producing these as flower petal pigments. This may explain why intra and inter-specific hybridization techniques as well as mutation breeding has not given us plants with these colors.

¹Research supported by the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Hatch project 2172, a grant from the Wisconsin Council of African Violet Clubs, and a grant from the African Violet Society of America. The work in this report is part of a larger program recently described in the *Afr. Violet Mag.* (8,9).

²Graduate Student, Department of Horticulture.

³Associate Professor, Department of Horticulture.

Probably the best way of bringing about the desirable colors is by introducing foreign genes into the African violet. Several genera within the African violet family, especially *Episcia*, are likely sources of such genes; however, inter-generic hybridization attempts have failed (13). Although *Episcias* have the necessary genetic capacity to produce the desired pigments, the failure to hybridize with the African violet may have been caused by anatomical, physiological and/or biochemical differences associated with the plants sexual parts. Chromosomal differences may have also been associated with the plants inability to hybridize.

Asexual hybridization techniques appear to offer the greatest chance of successfully producing true red, orange and yellow African violets. Literally, asexual hybridization is the production of a hybrid individual by means other than the typical union of male and female germ cells. This is accomplished by the forced fusion of single cells and avoids most of the problems associated with traditional breeding programs. The idea of this form of hybridization is not new. Occasional and uncontrollable fusion of plant cells were reported as early as 1909. However, it was not until recently that scientists were able to control and induce cell fusions at will, and force the hybrid cells to divide and differentiate into a hybrid plant. The first hybrid plant obtained through asexual hybridization was accomplished in 1972 by Dr.

P. S. Carlson and colleagues at the Brookhaven National Laboratory (5). Using two tobacco species they were able to demonstrate the feasibility of this form of hybridization. Since 1972, other scientists have asexually produced tobacco hybrids, further demonstrating the success of asexual hybridization technology (7, 10). More recently, researchers in England asexually hybridized two species of petunias and regenerated viable hybrid plants from the cross (11).

Numerous other plants have been asexually hybridized: Oats + Corn (Power et al. 1970), Petunia + Tobacco (Power and Frearson 1973), Pea + Cornflower (*Centaurea*) (Davey and Short 1973), Barley + Soybean, Pea + Soybean, Corn + Soybean, Wheat + Soybean, Tobacco + Soybean, Wheat + Rice (Kao, Constabel, Michayluk, Gamborg 1974-1975), Carrot + Barley (Dedits, Kao, Constabel, Gamborg 1975), Petunia + *Parthenocissus* (Frearson et al. 1975). Although cell division has occurred in most cases, no whole plants have yet been regenerated from these asexually hybridized cells.

Asexual hybridization is accomplished by aseptically isolating single cells and removing their cell wall by an enzyme treatment. The cell wall is a barrier to fusion of cells and must be removed for asexual hybridization to occur. The result of the enzyme treatment is suspension of "naked" cells called protoplasts. Spherical and amoeboid in structure, the protoplast is able to engulf and absorb all sorts of debris, chloroplasts, nuclei, etc . . . , and is an integral part of recombinant DNA experiments involving plants. Protoplasts are most frequently obtained from leaf tissue and occasionally from flower petals (Fig.1 on page 64).

After removal of the enzyme solution by a series of washes, the protoplasts are then purified and concentrated by various techniques based on the difference in densities of the protoplasts and the solution they are in. A very dense solution causes the live protoplasts to float and the cell wall fragments and debris to remain suspended or sink. Once the protoplasts of the two types of plants chosen as parents are mixed, fusion can be induced.

Protoplast fusion, the essence of asexual hybridization, is stimulated by the addition of a fusogenic agent called Polyethylene-glycol (PEG). PEG apparently "magnetizes" the protoplasts causing them to join very tightly. The mechanism is poorly understood. Removal of the PEG by washing with a solution high in calcium completes the fusion and hybrids result.

Since protoplasts from the same plant are just as likely to fuse with each other as with protoplasts from different plants, hybrid selection techniques are necessary. Using brightly colored flower petal pro-

toplasts as a visual indicator of the hybrids is one technique which can be employed. Several other indicator techniques have been developed and can be used simultaneously for proper identification of the hybrids (6, 12). African violet flower petals appear to be excellent candidates for asexual hybridization experiments. Not only are the colors useful as a visual indicator of hybridization but flower petals have proven their ability to regenerate viable plantlets (3).

Placing the hybrid protoplast on a suitable tissue culture media usually stimulates cell wall formation, cell division and regeneration into a hybrid plant. By far the greatest problem encountered by scientists is the hybrid cells inability to divide and regenerate into an entire hybrid plant. Part of the reason is the parent plant's inability to perform well in tissue culture.

Recently, hybrid cells of African violets and *Episcias* (Fig. 2 on page 64) have been produced by us using asexual hybridization techniques. A hybrid plant has not yet been obtained. However, since both *Episcia* and *Saintpaulia* have a high capacity to regenerate plantlets from leaf, petiole, and callus cultures (1, 2, 4), we are confident of eventually obtaining hybrid plants. These initial hybrid plants may have no immediate economic value, but will give access to genes which were not otherwise available for use in standard breeding programs. Thus, these "test-tube" hybrids may lead to the production of the first true red, orange and yellow-flowering African violets.

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The Shameless Scavenger

Elisabeth H. Hansen
Jenkintown, PA

As my interest in a variety of plants grows and the number of my plants increases by leaps and bounds I have become a shameless scavenger!

In order to cut down on the time spent in caring for my plants I have wicked almost everything, although I find that a few plants do not respond well to it. I have been using the family size oleo for some time now as the larger the reservoir used the less often it has to be refilled. Old nylon hose can be used for wicking if you do a little experimenting and come up with the right width for each pot size. Just be sure that your soil mix is very light and porous. Otherwise the plant will probably die of root or crown rot due to constantly wet soil.

Styrofoam anything - cups, meat trays, egg boxes, etc. - are salvaged for recycling. I rarely come home from a meeting without a bag full of cups. They make excellent pots in a pinch but my main use for styrofoam is as drainage in terrariums, rooting boxes, hanging baskets or large pots for plants with shallow roots. Perlite works just as well but it is becoming harder to find and more expensive every day it seems. Styrofoam could also probably be used for lightening the soil though I have not tried it as yet

as I never seem to have enough for drainage material. It might even work as a rooting medium. I have an old blender which is no longer strong enough to use for chopping vegetables, etc., which I now use exclusively for grinding up styrofoam. I fill the jar a little over half full of water, break up the foam into sizes which will fit into the jar, put the cover on TIGHT, and give the mixture three or four short bursts until it is just the right size. Don't try to do too much at once. It just gets jammed. I find that five or six cups, depending on the size of the cup, can be ground up at one time. Don't try to grind it dry or you may have it all over the kitchen! After grinding I drain it in a large colander and store it in a plastic bag until needed.

Another thing for which plastic egg boxes can be used is in potting newly separated plantlets, especially miniatures which are so tiny. Pierce a hole in the bottom of each cup and use the top as a tray underneath the box. Watering can be done from the bottom without disturbing the newly planted babies.

The small cream containers used by many restaurants are excellent for potting up the small sinningias. My friends automatically save them for me. The only thing you have to be careful about is to rinse them out as soon as possible as they will start to smell to high heaven very shortly! I punch small holes in the bottom with a nutpick for drainage.

I save all foil cake pans and containers for re-use. I always use a shallow foil tray on top of a lazy susan when potting. Various other sizes are used as seed pans, seedling flats, rooting containers, etc. Fortunately my son is a Sara Lee cake enthusiast so I usually have a pretty good supply on hand. Drainage holes are easy to punch if they are needed.

All sizes of plastic bags are used for a variety of things — rooting leaves, as "greenhouses" for newly rooted plants and suckers, carrying small plants and cuttings, and storage for soil and rooting mixes. The last two have to be fairly strong bags to avoid splitting. When leaves are rooting in a plastic bag it is easy to water them without opening the bag by using a disposable hypodermic needle to pierce the bag. I use large bags to cover my flats of rooting leaves which helps to cut down on watering time. All newly transplanted plants are covered with sheets of plastic and the light stands are covered with plastic drop cloths to help hold in the humidity which is a problem to me in my too warm basement, especially in winter. Large garment covers used by drycleaners can be split across the top and down one side so they will lie flat. All except the storage bags are clear plastic so that the light can get through to the plant or cutting.

As you can see, very little goes to waste and I am constantly on the lookout for new items to be put to use in caring for plants.



A Foote on the Violet Path

By Grace Foote

All roads lead to Texas in April as the 32nd annual AVSA convention gets under way — and all Texas roads will be leading to Austin, the state capital! Under the leadership of **Gladys Hudnall** everything is falling into place as convention time grows near. And no wonder! With somebody like **Gladys Hudnall** in the driver's seat the convention is bound to be drawn up on Texas style. Clubs throughout the state which have been called on to cooperate with the convention chairman have responded marvelously and maintain that "**Gladys Hudnall** is a joy to work with. Her expertise is fantastic." And it should be. For 15 years she was Foods Services Supervisor for Kinsolving Dorm at the University of Texas which houses some 1,500 girls, and believe me, says **D. J. Lidiak**, convention vice chairman, "she knows what she's talking about when she thinks in convention terms." And as **D. J.** says, "We've been having lots of fun getting ready for the AVSA convention, but there's a lot of good ole fashioned work involved, too." . . . **Marie Dattalo**, one of the younger members of the Port Arthur African Violet Culture Club, started hybridizing not too long ago and when the Lone Star African Violet Council had a two-day meeting and show in Houston she took over one of her hybrids, 'Raspberry Swirl'. And do you know she got first place for best seedling in that class! Now she's anxious to enter some plants in the Austin AVSA show and see how she rates. More power to these younger growers! . . . As you'll see, somewhere in this magazine is an article on propagating with African violet blossom stems — well, right now I have placed a blossom stem of 'Highland Fling' in some water to root. I'll let you know the results. **Marshall Wheeler** of Olean, NY says, "To my knowledge the use of blossom stems for propagation purposes is new ground. I would appreciate comments from other growers." . . . The Friendship Gesneriad and AVS of Wylie, TX had to replace their treasurer this fall — **Jeff Kiesek** had to return to college and he was replaced by **John Ward** . . . **Dr. Alvin Shultz** of Prairie Village, KS, sent me an article from the "Apartment Life" magazine concerning the left-turn theory for African violets, which pointed out that if you don't give your windowsill plants a quarter turn every day, they'll end up growing toward the window, giving you leaning green. I'd already learned this from **Frank Burton** when he and **Dot** came down for a visit from Old Saybrook, CT. That's the first thing he told

me about my windowsill violets. But this other thing he didn't tell me. When you turn them, watch the way you do it, so says **Dr. R. L. Jones** of New Zealand's Dominion Physical Laboratory. Here's what he says: "If you rotate the pots counterclockwise, you'll stimulate their growth. BUT — turn them clockwise, and you'll inhibit them." The exact reason why it works remains a mystery, he says, but turning back the clock does seem to produce lusher plants . . . **Mrs. Warren B. Partain, Sr.**, a transplanted Texan from Wichita Falls, who now resides in Winter Haven, FL spent two weeks visiting in Texas this fall and stopped over a couple of days with her nephew and niece, **Mr. and Mrs. Richard Norris** in College Station where **Norris** is a candidate for his Ph.D., specializing in salinity and plant nutrition. "Needless to say I learned a lot in those two days", **Mrs. Partain** said. "I just couldn't believe how fascinating I found the work on leaf tissue culture." (Incidentally, we'll hear **Norris'** talk on salinity at the AVSA convention in Austin) . . . **Lula E. Strange** of Santa Cruz, CA still thrilled over her newly registered plant, 'Little Softie', winning best Western registered variety, 2nd best in show and best single even though she wasn't able to attend the Santa Clara Valley AVC's annual show. Her plant was taken to the show by **Irene Haseltine**. 'Little Softie' was hybridized by **Everett Hammond** of Irvington, CA . . . **David Buttram**, P. O. Box 193, Independence, MO 64051 wanting to buy old magazines and books relating to African violets and houseplants. Let him know if you have some. Here's something that happened to **David** while he was at the AVSA convention: "I was in the back of the elevator when two men got in and began talking about the crowd of people in the lobby. One of the men said to the other that a convention of African violet growers was under way and the other replied with a little sarcasm that he was sure that they were all little old ladies in tennis shoes". That was too much for me and I tapped the man on the shoulder and said, "That's not necessarily so." He looked up at me (I am 6' 3" and weigh over 300 pounds and am an ex-cop and can look mean sometimes). He apologized quickly and told me he was sorry as he looked at my Convention badge. I did smile and invited him to look at the exhibit when he got the time. I am sure he will think twice before saying the African violet growers are stereotyped as little old ladies in tennis shoes."

Affiliate 'appenings

(NOTE TO PUBLICITY CHAIRMEN: Please, when sending typed articles concerning your shows, send the original copy to the EDITOR — not a carbon copy or copy-machined material.)

Also PLEASE follow style used in following articles — then these do not have to be re-written for the Magazine.)

The Nutmeg State AVS sponsored its annual show, "Swing Around Connecticut", in New Haven, Miss Ruth Hatch served as chairman with Mrs. Thelma Beckwith co-chairman. Winners in the horticultural division included: Molly Kosik, best in show, 'Mark', 2nd runner-up and best semiminature 'Cruncher', best multicolor 'Sandpiper', best pink 'Carol', runner-up to sweepstakes (15 blues); Jessie Crisafulli, runner-up to best in show, 'Step-up', best miniature 'Bright Eyes', best variegated, 'Alouette', best gesneriad, episcia 'Dianthiflora', AVSA Collection Gold Award, 'Blue Storm', 'Delft Imperial', 'Nancy Reagan', best trailer, 'Bicentennial Trial', special awards for 'Alouette' and 'Bloomburst', sweepstakes (43 blues); Michael Luongo, special award for columnea, 'Butterball', best seedling; Ann Butler, best species, 'Diplothriza', best single, 'Ballet Lisa', Irene Traskers, best white 'Starshine', best blooming episcia, 'Cupreata Morton', design division, Edward Bradford, best artistic design, "Under the Shade", best arrangement, "Bulldog 77", Alice Tompkins, special award for arrangement, "Tempus Fugit"; Marge Fargeot, special award for arrangement 'Rhythm of the Sea' and staging of theme; Gertrude Caye, educational exhibit.

"There Is Music in the Air" was the theme of the Ohio State AVS' 22nd convention/show held at Kingwood Center in Mansfield with Mrs. Sharon Bruce as convention chairman and Mrs. Rosemary Armstrong as show chairman. Winners were: Martha Fensel, best of show, best double red, 'Tina', 2nd AVSA Collection, 'Tina', 'Blue Excitement', 'Garnet Elf', best 'Garnet Elf', best 'Bette Roserea', best double blue, 'Blue Excitement'; Donna Maruschak, 2nd best of show, 'Fountain Reverie', 1st AVSA Collection, 'Little Mountain', 'Parma Zip', 'Plum Marmalade', 2nd best Ohio State Collection, 'Mystic Images', 'Fountain Reverie', 'Ruby Bircher', best 'Parma Zip', best Ohio origination, best double multicolor, best Hawley origination, 'Fountain Reverie', best semi, single blossom, best semi, 'Sunny', best arrangement, "Down by the Old Mill Stream"; Emily Savage, sweepstakes, best standard fantasy, 'Lavender Love', best double white, 'Artic Mist', best mini, 'Little Mischief', best trailer, 'Trail Along'; Rosemary Armstrong, sweepstakes runner-up, best 'Stardust', best bloom with edge, 'R. Audrey', best Canadian Origination, 'Lochiel', sweepstakes of standard AVS only; Jacquelin Mercer, best Ohio State collection, best striped star bloom (pinwheel), 'Atlantic City'; Mrs. Clark Noble, novice sweepstakes, best Tommie Lou foliage, 'Parson's King', best novice pink entry, 'Lynn Renee', best episcia, 'Pink Brocade'; Harford Renmick, gesneriad sweepstakes, best non-blooming episcia 'Camero', best 'Chirita' in bloom; Mildred Lusk, best ballet, best single pink, 'B. Lisa', best 'Gene Garner' Evelyn Grinstead, best double pink, 'Think Pink'; Viola Tucker, best double edged with another color, 'Pink Nimbus'; Eugene Trent, best variegated other than 'Tommie Lou', 'Ivory Buttons', best seedling, "Em-Kay-Tee"; Elaine Cummins, best double pink mini, 'Ping Pong Sport'; Fran Lane, best plant in unusual container, best arrangement; Ruby Bircher, best Columnea, best gesneriad, 'Early Bird'; Swaney's Glass Gardens, best commercial exhibit; Russell Swaney, best plant in commercial exhibit, 'Sinningia Speciosa'; Becky Swaney, best terrarium, best dish garden; Mrs. Allen Bump, best artistic planting, best dried arrangement; Iona Clark, best blooming episcia, 'Limeaid'.

The AV Study Club of Houston held its 4th annual show, "Africa: Land of Violets," in an African jungle hut setting. Show chairman was Mollie Ritchie. Top awards were: Best of show, 'Yankee Cheer', AVSA Collection (Gold Rosette) 'Nancy Reagan', 'Mary C', 'Blue

Boy', best of show 2nd runner-up, 'Blue Boy', Susan Myers; best of show 1st runner-up, 'The Parson', best terrarium, Billie Golla; AVSA Collection (Purple Rosette), 'Good Morning', 'Sweet Mary', 'Fredette's Sugar Blues', Bebe Glaser; best miniature, 'Little Red', best semiminature, 'Beginner's Luck', horticultural sweepstakes award, Candy Russell; best gesneriad, Episcia 'Pink Velvet', Mollie Ritchie; best artistic planting, Elaine Riquelmy; best arrangement, Flo Brogdon.

The Levittown AVS of Long Island held its first AVSA fall judged show, "Melody of Violets" with Mrs. Paul Buckley as show chairman. Award winners were: Best in show, 'R. Mars', 2nd best, 'Amazing Grace', best semi, 'Little Jim', largest AV plant, 'Blue Tempest', best Rhapsodie, 'R. Mars', horticulture sweepstakes, Eleanor Hiltzman; best variegated, 'Tommie Lou', best terrarium, best bottle garden; best Long Island origination, 'Lizeta', Anne Lee; best mini, 'Little Critter', best trailer, 'Mohawk Trail', Joyce Hardecker; best unusual container, 'Mark', best gesneriad, episcia 'C. Sharp', Gert Buckley; best windowsill plant, 'Mark', best bubble bowl, Mary Rohlich; best guest entry, 'Betty', Betty Raskoff; best novice, 'R. Neptune', Diane Markunas; best artistic plant, best arrangement, best miniature arrangement; design sweepstakes, Pat Taylor; best dish garden, Joanna Rohlich.

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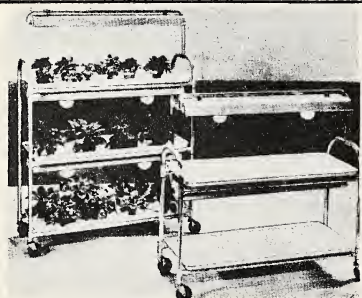
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OPAL SURPRISE

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PURPLE POPPY

PINXTER

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TRINKET MAGIC

(See January issue for descriptions)

NOTICE OF CHANGE OF SHIPPING - We will not mail or have a list this year. **CHAMPION** variegates will be available by mail from

BAKER'S AFRICAN VIOLETS

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Please contact them for a list and other mailing information. We hope this change will give us more time and space for hybridizing.

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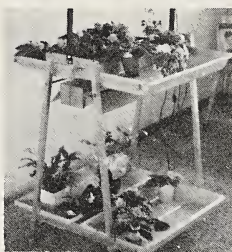
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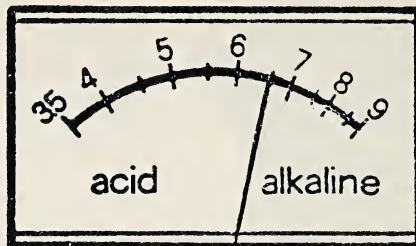
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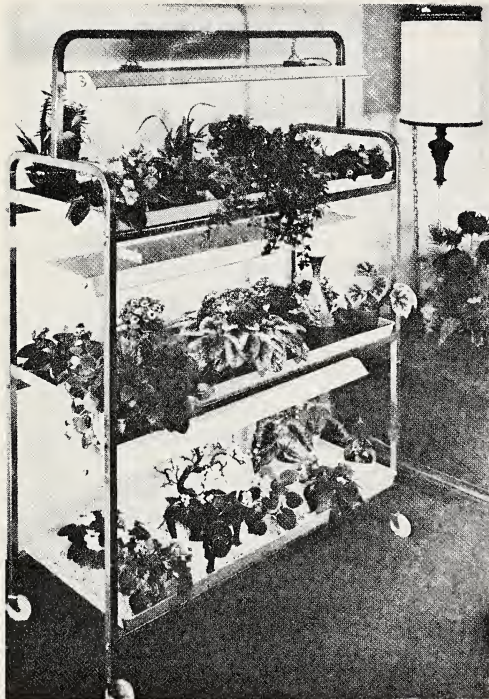
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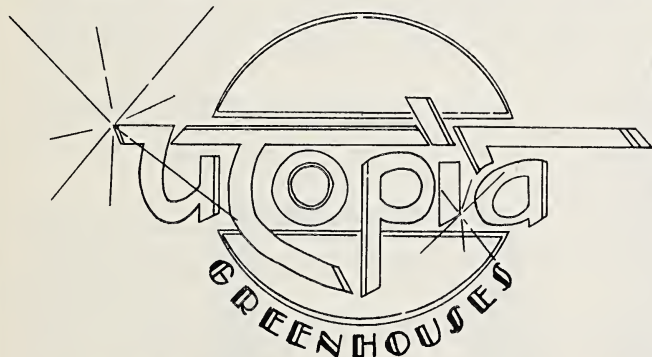
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DIPPITY DOO - Large white ruffled dbl. tinged and mottled with pink, some green edging. Ruffled moss green foliage. Pretty!

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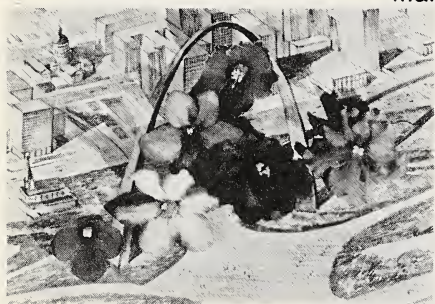
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African Violet

MAGAZINE

Volume 31

Number 3

June, 1978



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MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION: Send ideas, offers to help, request for assistance to Mrs. Harold Rienhardt, 4463 W. Seneca Tpk., Syracuse, NY 13215

AFFILIATES: For information on show awards, how to organize a chapter, or membership questions, write Mrs. Wayne W. Schroeder, 1739 N. 74th Ct., Elmwood Park, IL 60635

AVSA OFFICE: Mrs. Clarice Bell, Office Manager, Box 1326, Knoxville, TN 37901

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COMMERCIAL

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES: Albert Buell, Box 218, Eastford, CT 06242

COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Lloyd Lyn McArthur, 1175 Cumberland Rd., NE, Atlanta, CA 30306

CONVENTION:

AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Mrs. R. A. Chase, 482 Rutherford Ave., Redwood City, CA 94061 by Sept. 1.

PROGRAM: Mar. issue. Send special requests for workshop programs; suggest names of interesting speakers to Mrs. J.A.W. Richardson, RR1, Box 70, Tavares, FL 32778.

SCHEDULE: Jan. issue.

TIME AND PLACE: If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Jimmy Watson, 1361 Madison Ave., Apt. 2-AA, New York, NY 10028

CULTURE FOLDERS: Use for shows, with sales, or wherever memberships may be solicited. Membership application included. Free from AVSA office. Please state quantity required.

HANDBOOK FOR JUDGES AND EXHIBITORS: Mrs. E. A. (Melva) Nelson, 603 East Essex Ave., St. Louis, MO 63122

JUDGING SCHOOL: For information on holding a school or becoming a qualified judge, write Mrs. James B. Carey, 3900 Garden Dr., Knoxville, TN 37918

LIBRARY: Order AVSA Library slide programs and packets from AVSA office. List in June issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Harvey Stone, 51 Peach Highlands, Marblehead, MA 01945

MAGAZINE:

EDITOR: Mrs. Grace Foote, 211 Allien Pl., Port Arthur, TX 77640

ADVERTISING MANAGER: For advertising rates and copy information write Mrs. Terrance R. Leary, 2088 Illinois Ave., NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33703

AFFILIATE 'APPENINGS: Send to Editor.

ARTICLES: Send to Editor

DEADLINE DATES: JUNE issue, Mar. 1; SEPT. issue, June 1; NOV. issue, Aug. 1; JAN. issue, Oct. 1; MAR. issue, Dec. 1.

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OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE: AVSA Secretary; Mrs. H. N. Hansen, 708 Wyndale Rd., Jenkintown, PA 19046

PARLIAMENTARIAN: Mrs. Thomas J. Edmundson, 4605 NW 45th St., Tamarac, FL 33319 is available to answer parliamentary questions for affiliates. Send SASE for reply.

PLANT REGISTRATION: Mrs. Fred Tretter, 4988 Schollmeyer Ave., St. Louis, MO 63109

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research, or names of interested qualified potential research personnel to Frank Tinari, 2325 Valley Rd., Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

WATCH FOR SPECIAL INFORMATION IN THESE

ISSUES: AFFILIATE LIST - Nov.; BEST VARIETIES LIST - Nov.; BYLAWS - Sept.; JUDGES & TEACHERS - Nov.; LIBRARY PROGRAMS - June; LIFE MEMBERS - June; MASTER VARIETY SUPPLEMENT - Sept.; MINUTES - Sept.; NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT - Jan.; OFFICERS & COMMITTEES - June; SHOW & JUDGES RULES - Sept.; TALLY TIME - Mar.; TREASURER'S & AUDITOR'S REPORT - Sept.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the method and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

COVER PAGE: Pictured on the cover page is a beautiful violet called "Double Stateliner" (1895). The plant was grown by Tom E. Toms of Bossier City, LA, who captured eight top awards at the St. Louis AVSA convention/show. 'Stateliner' (1895) was hybridized and registered by Kolb's Greenhouses of Phillipsburg, NY. (Photo by Frank Burton)

PERTAINING TO VIOLETS

4. "Question Box" provides Service to AVSA Readers
5. Growing African Violets "Texas Style"—Jodi Davis, Austin, TX
7. The Go-Alongs—Phyllis Hall, Penobscot, Canada
8. Energy, Efficiency and Enervation in a Plant Room—Sundown and Hortense Pittman
9. Poem: "What's my Fate?"—Thomas Kostulias
9. Judging School
13. Portraits: Larry and Sunny Rosenfeld
13. Don't Get Lazy
14. Learning Flower Arranging—Mrs. Roy Lockhart, Birmingham, AL
16. Mites Attacking African Violets—Dr. Charles L. Cole, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX
19. Honor Roll of African Violets—Mrs. Leon (Irene) Fiedler, Prescott, Wis., successor to Madeline Gonzales
23. When To Water?
31. Clinic Is Held
31. Violet Beauties—Kathy Karparis
35. Violets in the Bathtub—Lela Steenburg, Indianapolis, IN
39. Affiliate Appenings
47. Something Different — But it Worked!
47. Spring Show —Olive Z. Snowden
49. More Plantlets from Same Leaf?—Alvin Shultz
49. Keep on Lookout
50. Drying Flowers in a Microwave Oven—Grace Rymer, Cleveland, IN
51. Encouragement from an AV Beginner—Mrs. Sam (Elaine) Burks
51. Use Your Blender
52. Patio Enclosed for Garden Room—Paul Combs, Dallas, TX
52. Happiness Is Doing Good—Sonya Swift, Staten Island, NY
52. Isolate New Plants
56. Bathing . . . Take Your Violet—Janice Everett
56. Perils in Peat—Andy and Carol Anderson, Bellflower, CA
58. Moving With African Violets—Jancy I. McNicholas, Newport News, VA
58. Fluorescent Lights
59. Use Spindles To Make Stands—Marie Deschamps, Lincoln Park, NJ
62. Lighted Plant Stand Furniture Quality—H. K. Eckert, Kerrville, TX
63. Violets Add Spark of Life to Home—Clark Faulkenberry
63. Large Blooms
63. Make Mine Violets—Lucy Clingan
65. Novice Classes—Who Needs Them?—Mrs. Bret Evans, San Marcos, TX
66. Grow 'Em Large—Edythe M. Peeler, Lawndale, NC

COLUMNISTS

10. Question Box—Mrs. C. S. Hawley, Columbus, OH, successor to Anne Tinari
21. Beginner's Column: A Pep Talk for Discouraged Beginners—Mrs. J. A. W. (Ann) Richardson, Tavares, FL
22. Cross Your I's . . . and Dot Your T's—Mrs. W. F. (Neva) Anderson, St. Louis, MO
24. Musings from the "Mini-Mam"—Mrs. Sidney (Ellie) Bogan, Long Beach, NY

26. AVSA Affiliates—Mrs. Wayne (Mildred) Schroeder, Elmwood Park, IL
27. Your Library—Harvey L. Stone, Marblehead, MA
30. Bruce Edens Research Fund—Mrs. L. F. (D.J.) Lidiak, Austin, TX
30. AVSA Booster Fund—Mrs. W. M. Plaster, Shreveport, LA, to be succeeded by Mrs. Arthur F (Mary) Boland, Alexandria, VA
36. Registration Report—Mrs. Fred (Adele) Tretter, St. Louis, MO
48. A Foote on the Violet Path—Mrs. Henry P. (Grace) Foote, Port Arthur, TX

CONVENTION

14. Service Awards
15. Affiliate Leadership Award Presented to Gladys Hudnall
20. Texas Grower Awarded Bronze Medal Certificate: Howard Utz, San Antonio, TX
20. Dora Baker of St. Paul, MN Recipient of Distinguished Service Award
22. Honorary Life Membership Awarded Melva Nelson
22. Distinguished Service Award to Anne Tinari, former "Question Box" Editor, Huntingdon Valley, PA
23. Memberships Are Awarded
26. 17 Affiliates Get Achievement Awards
38. AVSA Sweepstakes Winners Listed
47. President Citation Awards Are Made
53. Mesdames Lidiak, Diver and Crisafulli Take Top Honor Awards at AVSA 1978 Convention/Show
55. 'Coral Radiance' Named New AVSA Introduction
55. Awards for Affiliates
56. Yearbook Awards

SOCIETY BUSINESS

Inside Cover Page: "Strictly Business—Your Business"

13. Registering Judging Schools
18. Lifetime Judges Exam Deadline
18. New 1978 Handbook—Purple Cover—Ruth G. Carey
23. Awards Needs for 1979 Convention/Show—Mrs. Richard A. Chase, Redwood City, CA
23. Registering Judging Schools
38. AVSA Library—Regulations for Use of AVSA Library Materials
40. Officers and Elected Directors of AVSA
40. Standing Committees
42. Other Committees
43. Past Presidents of AVSA
43. AVSA Honorary Life Members
43. AVSA Bronze Medal Winners
44. AVSA Life Members
56. Changes Are Made
56. Important!

Miscellaneous

15. Help Us Serve You Better—Judy Stroske, Springfield, VA
31. In Memoriam: Mrs. Brenits Golden
31. A Tribute to Sammie Ballard—Dr. Troy Nelson, Troy, AL
47. Something Different—But It Worked—Edith Horne, Dansburg, WI
47. Poem: "Spring Show"—Ollie S. Snowden
49. Elberts Receive Silver Medal
49. Attention Publicity Chairman

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73. African Violetry — Wholesale and Retail
87. Annalee Violetry
67. Auburn St. Greenhouse — Fresh cut leaves
70. Baker's African Violets — Violets with Pizazz!
77. Barbara's — African violets
85. Becker Printing Company — African Violet Notepaper
67. Betty's Unique Boutique — Violets, begonias
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73. Chontos Mostly Violets — Leaves and starter plants
80. Christine's Flowerland — New varieties
78. Cindy's Violetry — Newest varieties by leading hybridizers
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STAFF

- MRS. GRACE FOOTE, Editor
211 Allien Place
Port Arthur, TX 77640
- MRS. TERRANCE R. LEARY, Adv. Mgr.
2088 Illinois Ave., NE
St. Petersburg, FL 33703
- MRS. CLARICE BELL
Office Manager
P. O. Box 1326
Knoxville, TN 37901
- MRS. W. F. ANDERSON
AVSA Publications Chairman
360 Tulip Drive
St. Louis, MO 63119

COLUMNISTS

- Mrs. James Carey, Mrs. Sidney Bogin, Harvey L. Stone, Mrs. L. F. Lidiak, Mrs. J.A.W. Richardson, Paul Arnold, Mrs. Mildred Schroeder, Mrs. A. F. Boland, Mrs. Charles Hawley, and Mrs. Fred Tretter.

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- Mrs. Leon Fiedler
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Letter From The AVSA President



"Deep In The Heart of Texas," Austin, Texas, will remain an indisputable part of all the lives of those that were there for that great Texas convention. Our heartfelt appreciation and thanks to ALL the Texas members of AVSA. To the Convention Chairman, Mrs. Gladys Hudnall; Convention Vice-Chairman, Mrs. L. F. (D.J.) Lidiak; Amateur Show Chairman, Mrs. Fred C. (Frances) Young; Tour Chairman, Mary Ann Nelson; Publicity Chairman, Mrs. Rosemary Thompson; Convention Program Chairman, Mrs. J.A.W. (Ann) Richardson; Registration Chairman, Mrs. J. D. Spence; Awards Chairman, Mrs. Richard (Celine) Chase; the many committee members for the AVSA convention and the staff members of the Driskill Hotel and Stephen F. Austin Hotel, who are not individually listed here.

This most severe and costly winter — all over the country — has relinquished its hold to a welcome Spring. These times have stimulated our concern for others' well being, comfort and even in some cases, their very survival. Hopefully this aroused concern will continue along with a desire to help others who need it. We have a most unique bond of interest in the beautiful African violet plant. By means of this beautiful creation, let us, each one, spread, extend, propagate, direct its beauty and captivating charm to others everywhere — especially where sunshine and love are needed.

Your officers, board members and I, hope to serve you and AVSA to the best of our ability during this new year. Please, feel free to communicate with us concerning . . . your concerns. If we do not know all the answers — we will try to find out. We are here to serve you and the society. That is what we most desire to do.

Watch for more about the Austin convention award winners, slide programs, new affiliates, and so many good new varieties of African violets in the next issues of the magazine.

Happy violet growing to everyone.

Sincerely,

Gene Garner

A Book of Information . . .

"QUESTION BOX" Provides Service to AVSA Readers

From March 1959 to March 1978. That's Anne Tinari's length of service to AVSA — and all of it has been purely voluntary and AVSA is extremely grateful.

Anne took over the Question Box in 1959. The column has had an interesting background as compiled by Neva Anderson, Publications chairman:

Early in AVSA history an article appeared in the AVM (Vol. 3, #3, P. 15, March 1950) titled "Something New":

"We are planning on having a "Reader's Question and Answer Box" on our problems in raising African violets — a sort of little Golden Rules corner where 'we'd help others as we'd like them to help us'.

"If you have a problem, write us a letter about it. We will then publish these questions, and ask our readers who have had a similar problem and solved it, to tell us of their experience. In this way, each issue will have new questions, and the answers to the inquiries published in the previous issue.

"We believe this will be interesting and helpful to all of us. Now let us have your questions. — Laura E. Littig, 3016 Jefferson Ave., Davenport, Iowa.

"In the next issue (Vol. 3, #4, June 1950, p. 43) 10 questions were published. One of them was: "Please tell me why my African violets won't bloom although they have beautiful foliage. My friends start plants from my leaves, have them full of blooms, and give them no better care."

Two members wrote in answer to that question and their suggestions were published in the next issue - (Vol. 4, #1, Sept. 1950, p. 44).

From H. G. Harvey: "Beautiful foliage and no blooms is an indication of insufficient light. Move your plants to where it is a little lighter, but avoid direct sunlight for any appreciable length of time as it is easy to get too much sun.

From Mrs. Bessie Merrill: "I had the same trouble . . . nice foliage and no blooms. Soon after I put them in a south window, they were full of blooms."

Sound familiar?

Mrs. Littig's column appeared from June 1950 thru December, 1952 when she retired due to lack of time. A new question Box Editor was introduced: Lois Minehan, of Binghamton, NY.

In Mrs. Minehan's first column, Vol 6, #3, p. 41, March 1953 she said that a member had suggested that the answers be given directly under the questions. This format was adopted and has been followed to the present.

Mrs. Minehan continued as Question Box Editor

thru the December, 1958 issue. Vol. 12, #2, p. 66, when she resigned due to illness.

In the March 1959 magazine in the Editor's column a new Question Box Editor, Anne Tinari, was welcomed to the magazine staff. Anne's first column appeared in March 1959 issue, Vol. 12, #3, p. 73.

Besides answering 965 questions in the 76 columns edited thru the March '78 issue — some questions were referred to the readers to get their experiences under the heading "Readers Can You Answer These?"

Since it was started in September '72 (Vol 25, #4), 79 'Tips From Readers' were published.

What a book of information this would make if all the questions were reviewed and published. In her book, "Our African Violet Heritage" Anne chose to review the 25 most often asked questions.

March 1959 thru March 1978 . . . what a service to AVSA members!



BEST IN SHOW—Mrs. Eva Belliveau is holding the beautiful plant, 'Amethystland', which won Best in Show at the Moncton AVS' annual show in Moncton, NB, Canada. The plant was hybridized by Mrs. Jean Griffiths, well known Canadian hybridizer.

Growing African Violets "Texas Style"

Jodi Davis
2818 Rio Grande
Austin, TX 78705



Having grown African violets more than 12 years, I think back to my first growing days and remember the many questions I asked and the many good answers I received. I also remember my confusion over the conflicting reports as I heard and read of methods others used in growing their plants. These methods all sounded good and certainly worked for others as their beautiful plants showed. Somehow, when I tried to adopt some of these techniques, they did not always work for me. Being a person who enjoys doing research, I decided to approach growing from the study of native jungle growing conditions. Many hours and much love have gone into this study. In the fall of 1973 at our fall sale I introduced the method of growing which Pauline Bartholomew of California, later named "Texas Style." Since I am growing in my home in Texas where my husband and I live alone in a six-bedroom house with a semi-basement, part of which is air conditioned and the other part water cooled, I have had to make minor adjustments and am sure others will have to do the same in their environments.

Deep in the jungle of Tanga, African violets were found growing near sea level or high in the jungle mountains, yet with many things in common. They were growing in a buoyant atmosphere, nestled among rocks, with a base of rocky rubble. The soil was a mixture of various leaves and sticks, manure, and general debris from the life and death cycle of plants and animals, forming nature's compost. Almost daily, warm rains kept the roots constantly moist, and the rubble furnished most important drainage, as well as provided necessary air to the roots of these plants. (With these conditions in mind, I began my experiments.)

Step #1: I start with a leaf cutting, which, after cutting the stem with the usual slant, I root in a mixture of three parts vermiculite to one part horticultural charcoal, using no fertilizer until roots have formed. Plantlets will appear at the cut end of this stem in due time, however, I have never been able to outwit Mother Nature and say exactly how long this will take. I leave these plants on the leaf until the strongest ones have leaves about the size of a nickel, let medium dry somewhat, then gently remove the largest plants, replacing mother leaf and weaker

babies back in rooting medium to grow stronger. I carefully remove all vermiculite from roots of plants as it may hold too much moisture near the stem of the plant later in life, and causing problems with this method of watering. The plants should have a nice, strong, white root system, as plants are no better than their roots.

Step #2: I am now ready to transplant these babies into a community saucer, preferably a 12" styrofoam saucer without drainage, approximately 1½" deep. Drainage material consisting of about 3 parts perlite to 1 part charcoal is spread in bottom of the tray to about ½" depth, followed by baby mix to top of saucer. My baby mix is 5 parts Black Magic African violet soil (oven pasteurized) to 1 part horticultural charcoal. Charcoal is so important; be sure to use it. Baby plants can be placed very close together. As they grow, I remove the stronger plants, and the weaker ones come on later. (I find this method perfect for working with seedlings in my hybridizing) DO NOT pack soil, as this would rob plant of air, causing suffocation. Place plants in your collection, keeping them damp.

Step #3:(Shifting to 4" pots) Preparation of soil can make or break the success of this method of growing, so pay special attention to the mix you use. Whether you dig, buy, or however you get your soil, be sure it is pasteurized, well aerated, free draining, and nourishing. I prefer to use soil without vermiculite, so it can drain freely. My soil is always tested and balanced with a pH reading of a little below 6.75. Do NOT use any additional lime unless the tests you run on the soil show the soil has turned acid. I do NOT flush my soil and do not have any problems as long as I do not top water which washes out liming materials and thus causes acidity problems to develop.

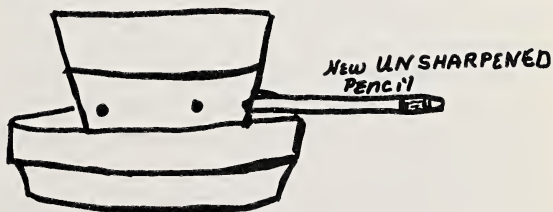


Fig. 1

After the plantlets growing in saucers in baby mix have a good root system, it is time to move them into 4" squatty or azalea pots, preferably of styrofoam, as plants can breathe in these pots. Prepare pots according to illustration. (See Fig. 1.)

Going back to jungle conditions, remember plants grow on flat rocks with rocky rubble and shallow, loose soil where almost daily rains keep the plants wet but never cutting their air supply. To emulate these conditions place sterile, coarse granite grit (no additives) and charcoal, approximately 3 of grit and 1 of charcoal in pot to above the top holes (about 1 cupful); then add a small amount of damp soil on top of the rock (See Fig. 2.) Set the young plant lightly on

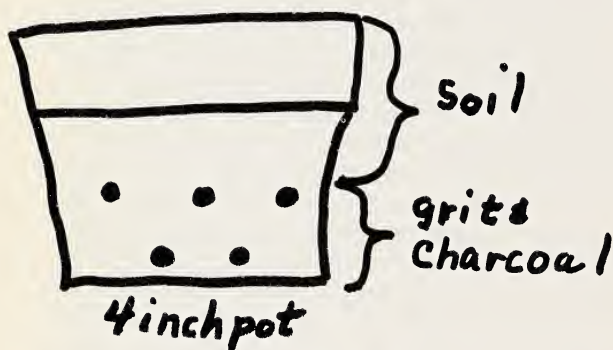


Fig. 2

top of the soil; fill around plant with soil, but do not pack, leaving loose for air supply; clean edge of pot; give about ¼ cup of water from top to establish capillary action; and then fill saucer with water. Place plant with your collection and be sure to give it plenty of room as it will go through a dramatic spurt of growth. Leave plant sitting in water until all water has been used; then let saucer dry until soil has lost the wet, wet look but has not become totally dry or you will have lost the capillary action of watering. In my location this usually means about 2 days of drying time. However, adjustments must be made according to the amount of humidity in the air surrounding your plant. The drying time is so important to make the roots grow down. If kept constantly wet, the roots sit on top of the soil and the plant will wobble in the pot, signifying a poor root system. I use Peter's 20-20-20 fertilizer, ¼ tsp. per gallon water, and regular Gro-lux bulbs burning 12 hours a day.

Water from bottom only, and leave pots sitting in water since it does not reach the soil, only the drainage material. The roots grow down into the water and love it!

Step #4: This is the Show, Decorative Display, and Hanging Basket Step. You at this convention were

the first to hear of my newest experiment, and I hope you will enjoy displaying your violets in this manner.

This step has worked best in a 5-inch pot. Materials needed (See Fig. 3) are a five-inch

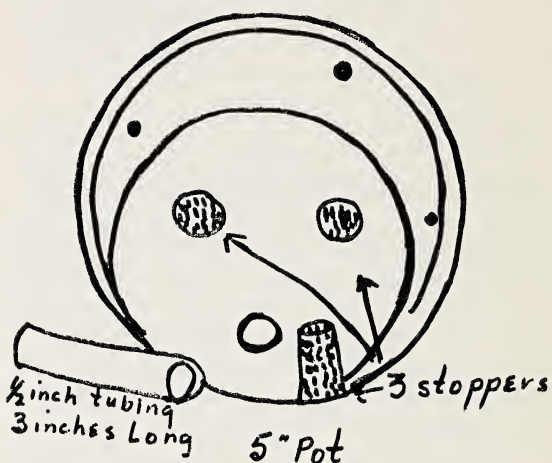


Fig. 3

styrofoam squatty pot, enough stoppers of correct size to close holes in bottom of pot, a piece of plastic tubing about 2½ inches long, and a new UN-SHARPENED pencil. Place a row of holes about half way up on the pot then another row nearer the top of

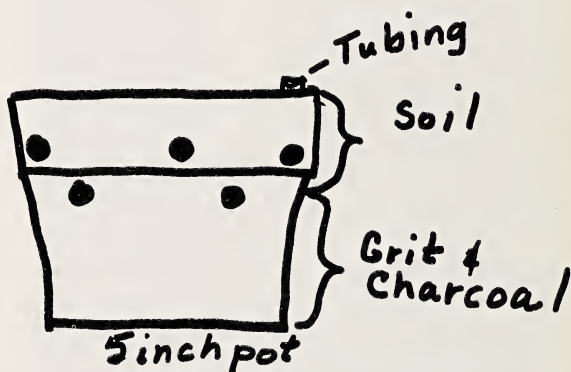


Fig. 4

the soil line. (See Fig. 4) Use grit as in step #3 to the lower row. Placing the plastic tube upright near side of pot, resting the end on the grit, placing the soil to hold it in the upright position, shift the plant from Step 3 into the 5-inch pot. Always be sure the plant has a healthy white root system. This plant can now be grown in a pan, tray or saucer of water as long as you are careful to keep the water below the soil line. When time comes to display plant take it out of tray of water, close holes with stoppers and fill bottom of pot with water using plastic tube to pour water in. This is an ideal way to display a plant in a hanging

basket, making watering much easier as it gives the plant a reservoir of water to draw on. Just place the complete pot in the basket or decorative container you may wish to use.

I hope you will enjoy growing violets "TEXAS STYLE", and as you pass this method along, I only hope you will give it in its entirety and then give your modifications.

Hybridizing, which I have been doing for several years, together with my continuing growing research, makes life very interesting. My husband, R. T., is working with me now and that first cup of coffee always tastes better, looking at new blossoms and counting new seedlings. These years of growing have been such a pleasure that I am trying to put it in a book so others might share my experiences and experiments.

The Go-Alongs

by Phyllis Hall

R.R. #1

Penobscuis, N.B. Canada E0E 1L0

I love almost everything that grows, but nothing, absolutely nothing, in my estimation, can equal African violets. They are so trust worthy, so never failing, so fascinating, so varied and beautiful. The other gesneriads also have their place, but I cannot achieve the same degree of performance from them.

But I must confess, that in spite of my long love affair with AVs, there are also numerous other plants that are held very warmly in my affection. I call them the "Go-Alongs" because of the important part they play in going along with violets and other gesneriads in terrarium plantings, in artistic plantings and arrangements, and simply by growing beside the violets on shelves and hanging baskets.

One of the most versatile "Go-Alongs" is the 'Davallia' or 'Rabbit's Foot Fern'. A "foot" planted in a terrarium, soon sends up an effective "tree". Cuttings of the fronds last indefinitely in arrangements. The soft, feathery fronds are an ideal backdrop for delicate violet blossoms. The plant itself is inevitably a conversation piece.

The 'Kentia Palm' provides interesting blossom stalks which are covered with green beads, ideal for arrangements. They also dry beautifully for dried arrangements. They must be cut before they dry on the plant, or the "beads" will pop off and fly far and near.

'Ficus Pumila Minima' is a love of a plant. It is lovely in hanging baskets, and attaches itself in a fascinating way to the sides of terrariums. It has to be regularly and rather severely pruned or it will take over. Cuttings are useful for arrangements.

'Pilea Microphylla' or 'Artillery Fern' is another dainty, delicate plant, effective for "trees" in terrariums. I had one serving as background in a dish garden. It created an oriental effect, planted with *Episcia* 'Pink Acajou' as a contrast, and an African violet with 'Pilea Depressa' and 'Baby's Tears' as ground cover. A Japanese lady figurine stood under the tree, creating the illusion of a Japanese garden. This dish-garden won the award for best in design and arrangement classes.

There is a monstrosity on a high window shelf, a Lemon Vine, 'Pereskia Aculeata Godseffiana', to be exact. It is positioned there because of its vicious spines. The long branches curl into interesting curves and shapes which make effective line material for arrangements. Sometimes they are dried and on occasion have been painted white to fulfill certain schedule requirements.

The Japanese honeysuckle, 'Lonicera Japonica Aurea - Reticulata', is a delicate vining plant with small pale green leaves. It grows in a hanging planter placed against a wall where it catches the late afternoon sun. It is a joy to watch as the light changes, causing its delicate leaves to change and vary in tones and shades of green. Several sprigs of this plant were threaded against a coral fan, which made a fitting backdrop for an African violet in an artistic planting.

Another plant which provides worthwhile and useful material for arrangements is 'Carissa Bonsai' or 'Natal Plum'. As it has spread its crawling tentacles all over one wall of my bedroom, I can make generous cuttings for winter arrangements. Its shiny round dark green leaves are most attractive.

A doll of a plant acquired last year was 'Serissa Foetide, Snowleaves'. It has tiny white edged leaves and is an ideal small plant for terrariums and dish-gardens.

For the same purpose, 'Ruellia Makoyana' with its red-backed, dark green, almost black leaves, is a stunning showy little plant. Its reddish blossoms are an added bonus.

Among the gesneriads, I must mention *Aeschynanthus* 'Marmoratus'. While in some ways this is a rather ugly plant, yet its interestingly variegated foliage make it useful in arrangements.

And of course there are always the indispensable and versatile ivies of every shape and description.

All of these plants and many more serve to enhance my joy and satisfaction in growing the best of them all, the glorious *Saintpaulia*.

Energy, Efficiency, and Enervation In A Plant Room

*Sundown and Hortense Pittman
12406 Alexandria
San Antonio, TX 77233*

We want to share with you the adventures of two people who got involved with African violets for the first time on Valentine's Day in 1970 and some of the events that followed.

From a modest beginning of one plant, we now grow over 700 varieties of violets and other gesneriads. We have converted our attached 20' X 22' garage into a plant room. It is connected to our central heat and cooling system. We have piped stereo music into the plant room and now have contented plants as well as happy workers.

We have literally hit the ceiling with our growing as our stands are from floor to ceiling. We custom built our stands utilizing the space to our advantage. Most of our stands are either 2' wide and 4' long, or 2' wide and 8' long—with two lights per shelf spaced 10 inches apart. On some stands that are only 12" wide, we used only one light per shelf. This seems to be ample light and the plants tend to grow flat as they are supposed to grow. In our plant room we have:

Light 40W
76 tubes 48" or 3040 watts
Light 73W
42 tubes 96" or 3066 watts
6106 watts

Cost: 1 tube — 40 watts used 14 hours per day at a cost of 2½¢ per kilowatt would cost less than 12¢ per week.

Tube life - Gro Lux W.S. Lights

48" 40 watt — 18000 hours

96" 73 watt — 12000 hours

Rule of thumb is to change at ⅔ lamp life. We change our lamps on a rotation basis. First, change all inside lamps on stand at about 12 months. then change outside tubes at 16 months. Then reverse the next change. We date all tubes with permanent ink.

The plant stands for miniatures, starter plants and rooted leaves have 6 shelves that are spaced so as to have the lights 6" to 8" above the top of the plants. The plant stands for the standard and trailers have 5 shelves and are spaced so that the lights are 10" to 12" above the top of the plants. The shelves are not adjustable but if necessary, trays can be raised by placing them on short pieces of 2" X 4"s.

We made our own water trays from galvanized metal. They are 1¾" high by 20" wide and 44" long. These trays are covered with 14 gauge 1" square galvanized wire. Each tray will hold over 200 starter plants. Trays are filled weekly with water containing

¼ strength Peters 12-36-14 fertilizer. For the variegated plants we use Peters 5-50-17. We use plastic pots throughout our growing. They are not only lighter, but have an additional advantage of being easier to clean and sterilize. We use square pots for starter plants because you can get at least 10% more of the plants on a shelf.

Did you know it is better to use dark plastic pots? The reason is that dark colors absorb light and heat which produces a higher soil temperature, which in turn enhances root growth.

All plants and rooted leaves are in pots which have wicks made of nylon trot-line cord. They water and feed themselves but occasionally get a top watering with ¼ strength Peters fertilizer. This is known as the constant feed method and has worked very well for us.

The trays must be cleaned about three or four times a year. To control algae, we have started adding copper sulphate to the trays of water. So far, this additive to the water has controlled the algae without any harm to the plants. So far, we have not had any problem with salinity.

For successful growing of plants by this method, one must use a light soil. After trying several commercial mixes, we decided to try our own mix. We use a slightly acid soil with a pH of 6.2 to 6.8 which seems ideal for violets. After trying several different mixes we came up with the following which has worked quite well for us:

5 gallon Canadian peat
5 gallon coarse vermiculite
2½ gallon coarse perlite
1 cup crushed lump charcoal

To this add a mix of 1 teaspoon trace elements, 1 cup dolomite lime and 5 quarts water. Later check pH so as to add or use less lime. Mix and store in plastic bags.

Although our plant room is connected to the central air conditioner we still had a heat problem. (We do have rather warm summers in San Antonio.) We installed two circulating fans to help with the air circulation but this did not help the heat problem. As 80% of the heat from fluorescent lights is from the ballasts, I decided to move them into the attic. This sure has helped but was quite a job. (It saves electric energy but sure used up a lot of mine!) I plan to place the ballast in a metal duct system with fan attached—in summer vented to outside. In winter the heat is vented to the inside to help heat the room.

The circulating fans do help by keeping the air moving. Stagnant air is a breeder of fungus diseases. Plants continuously lose water vapor through small pores found on the leaf surface. Poor air circulation causes this water to condense rather than evaporate, therefore causing an ideal place for fungus, including mildew, to grow. A gentle movement is all that is required. A draft or too much movement is harmful.

We use Gro-Lux Wide Spectrum Lamps in our stands. We have had very good results as the plants speak for themselves. I am sure plants will grow under most fluorescent lamps but W.S. lamps enhance the color of African violets. Lamps are on timers set for 12 to 14 hours per day—not night. Plants manufacture their food during the light hours but they can only assimilate food during the dark period. This process is aided by cool temperatures. Hence, the ideal temperature is 65° night and 75° day.

For light intensity for low energy plants the rule of thumb is 15 watts per square foot of plant space. We are using two 40-watt lamps for 8 square feet, which is 10 watts per square foot and this seems to be ideal for African violets.

Humidity is very important. African violets need at least 50% humidity. This is another advantage of wick-watering. The trays of water provide that extra humidity that these plants need. Plants will not set buds for blooms if the air is too dry.

The future looks bright. There seems to never be enough room or enough time, but the pleasure is endless. Varieties are many with many more to come. Maybe we will try our hand—or should I say “hands” at hybridizing next. Guess I’ll have to live to be 150 years old to get all of the things done—but I think it is worth the effort.

For those who attended our workshop at the AVSA convention we hope you enjoyed the slides that went with this program. Hope you enjoyed the program just half as much as we enjoyed sharing it with you. Our thanks also to the many friends who helped us along the way. Our special thanks to our local hybridizer, Howard Utz, for his help and for naming one of his newer plants ‘Sundown’—my nickname!

HAPPY GROWING, “YOU ALL”!

WHAT'S MY FATE?

by Thomas Kostulias

While I sit and wait . . . what shall be my fate . . . shall my pretty little bride . . . hide her feelings inside . . . shall she suddenly explode . . . with anticipation of her load . . . I idle away many hours . . . while she primps with her lovely flowers . . . I know she shall win it all . . . her determination is a solid wall . . . I love her dearly, as she knows . . . And she loves me, I suppose.



ORGANIZES CLUB—Perry Harrington, who organized the African Violet Club of Vicksburg, MS with 11 members, is shown here with some of her violets. The top photo shows Mrs. Harrington with a display of her lovely plants and in the lower photo is her growing area at her home in Vicksburg.

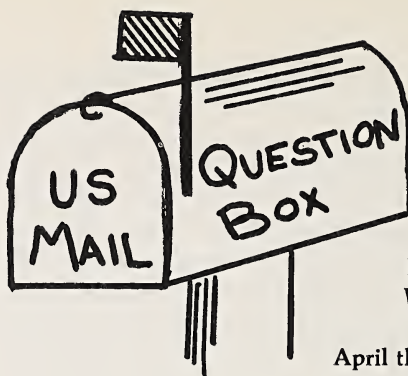


JUDGING SCHOOL

The First New Orleans AVS conducted a two-day judging school with Mrs. W. M. Plaster of Shreveport, LA, as the teacher. Receiving certificates were 10 members. It had been incorrectly announced that the school had been held by the New Orleans AVS. Nonmembers receiving judges' certification included James Britton, Theresa White, Doris Deshotel, Judy Simmoneaux, Jeanne LaCoste, Valerie Steckler, Betty Stipelcovich, and Matt. Ruello. The last five women listed are Federated Garden Club judges, who reside in New Orleans.



Mrs. C. S. Hawley
2432 Nottingham Rd.
Columbus, OH 43211
November thru March



P. O. Box 154
W. Southport,
Maine 04576
April thru November

All good and generous things must eventually come to an end; 'tis a sad turn of events but it is the way of the world. However, it is possible that from them something fresh and new will develop. But first it must be tested in the cauldron of "trial and errors," to be proved and seasoned. Then, and only then, will it achieve the same status as that from which it grew. Into this streaming crucible I have now stepped.

(There will now be a ten second pause while you take a deep breath and gasp, "WHO are YOU?")

(The answer is: "That remains to be seen, my friends, and good friends I hope we will become".)

The growth of the African violet hobby is phenomenal and changes in growing methods have come rapidly, year upon year, tumbling over one another at times. For instance, some old and tried methods upon which we had come to depend have been withdrawn from our use. I refer to the many government regulations concerning the use of pesticides and fungicides. These regulations will vary from state to state and consequently I cannot, nor will I, give advice on their use. My first effort to help you, therefore, is to tell you where this information is to be found.

Every county in every state has a local Agriculture Extension Agent. He is an agent of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and he is there for just such purposes as advice on sprays and soil drenches. His offices are usually found in the capital of each county. (Here in Ohio we call it the County Seat). The Office is listed in the telephone book, as a rule, under U.S. Government - Co-operative Extension Services.

For too long, the promiscuous use of these poisons by the unwary has been carried on. I, for one, hail these regulations as good. Our poorly ventilated violet rooms are not the place for the great majority of such toxicants. Some times the cheapest and safest method of protecting our violet collection from pests and diseases is to eliminate any problem plant the instant that it looks suspicious. Keep a covered garbage pail handy for just such purposes. Good sanitation conditions such as clean hands, clean tools, sterilized soil, clean pots and trays are a must and you will hear this admonition from me many times.

The questions which I am answering in this first

column were, of course, written to Anne Tinari and she, in turn, sent them on to me. They are good questions and I hope that I will be able to answer them as skilfully as she would have done. At least I will try and, with your forbearance at the beginning, we can hope that the skill and knowledge needed for this task will come quickly.

QUESTION - Last fall I collected over fifty gallons of water from our de-humidifier in our recreation room in the basement. Now I am afraid to use it for my violets. I have always used rain water but it has been scarce this winter because of the severe weather. Would this de-humidifier water be harmful?

ANSWER - Although I have never used water from this source myself there are those who have and they have used it with success. A friend, with whom I have discussed this, warns that it is far from being pure. He tells me that a thin layer of oil will sometimes form on the surface of the water especially if the motor on the de-humidifier is not functioning properly. This oil must be skimmed from the water with a good absorbent cloth or towel before it is used. If the water has been standing in containers for some time you may notice a thin layer of mold forming on the surface and although it will not harm the violets it is better to remove it. The most important fact to know is that this water lacks the trace elements which are so necessary to plant growth even though they are needed in very minute quantities. They, therefore, must be added when fertilizing. In some fertilizers adequate amounts will be part of the formula and will be listed in the analysis on the label.

If you decide to use this water I would suggest that you apply it to only a few of your plants at first. Observe them carefully for a period of time, then if the results look good, it is time to begin using it on the others. Rain water in our area, because of the pollutants in the air, is not suitable for watering plants but beautiful violets can be grown by just using any safe drinking water.

QUESTION - I hope that you can straighten out my idea of wicking. I read the different articles on wicking plants and think, "What a time saver!" Then I turn the page and find another article telling me that

after watering my plants from the bottom and they have soaked up all the water that they need, the excess must be emptied out of the tray because to leave it would cause root rot. Where is the difference in having a wick hanging constantly in a full container of water and leaving a small amount in the tray which is attached to the pot? Also when you have a margarine tub full of water under your plant do any of your readers mention the water getting too cold especially during the winter months?

ANSWER - I can certainly appreciate your confusion and your logic is very understandable but there is a difference in the amount of water absorbed through a thin wick properly inserted in the soil and a plant that is set in water. In the wick method only the small amount of water absorbed by the wick is available to the plant at any given time. It is therefore a gradual process, whereas the water in the tray is absorbed quickly and the soil is soon saturated which eliminates the air spaces necessary to maintain healthy growth. Too much water at one time will destroy the fine hair roots that feed the plant. And, too, if plants are watered from the top the residue water contains salts which have been flushed out of the soil. If they are permitted to again be absorbed by the plant they, too, will injure the roots. In the wick method the solution in the container is constantly fresh and in the correct balance. But remember that every five or six weeks the wicked plants should be removed from the containers and watered thoroughly with clear water and the "run-off" discarded.

The water temperature for African violets should be at least room temperature (65-75 degrees) but warm water is ideal. If, however, when the temperature of the room drops so, also, will the water temperature in the containers. This will probably do no damage to your violets unless it drops below 50 degrees but the growth of the plants will be much slower and the container will not have to be replenished as often. The reason for this is that the plant requires less fertilizer and water.

QUESTION - I have a problem with my violet Audrey' that I hope you can help me with. When I purchased the plant last May it had several crowns. In September I separated it into four plants, two of these had no roots at all. By the first of December all were blooming but the flowers were all misshaped. The plants themselves look fine, the foliage is dark green and the centers are growing. I have around one hundred fifty African violets and none of my others have been affected like this. I hope that you can help me treat my 'Audries'.

ANSWER - Your 'Audries' are suffering from the shock of the surgery which you performed on them in September. When a large plant that is made up of

many crowns is separated the fine feeder roots are damaged or disturbed. Until new ones have had time to grow the plants are in a weakened condition; the flower stems will grow and the buds will open but they will not have had the necessary amount of nutrients to develop properly. Your plants are coming out of the shock evidently. Just give them time and they will be beautiful again. When separating a plant such as this it is wise to remove many of the outer leaves before re-potting. The disturbed roots do not have the strength to support too many of them. This will prevent some of the older ones from rotting and possibly cause a spread of disease.

QUESTION - A friend of mine who was moving recently arrived at my home with a box of lovely violets from her collection. I was delighted to "adopt" them, but sorry to learn that she was unable to give me any of their names. She had thrown out every name tag as she acquired them. Is there any way to positively identify violets? A local florist sells lovely plants, but his violets are also sold without names. Do all violets on the market have names? Why should they be sold without name markers? I like to know the names of all the violets in my collection.

ANSWER - Naming unidentified African violets is most difficult. There is a Master List of violet varieties and it can be purchased from the AVSA Office in Knoxville, TN However, some varieties are so similar in appearance that these descriptions may be applicable to several different plants.

Many retailers, including a great many florists, do not understand how important it is to the violet hobbyist to know the names of varieties, and of course, a great many of their customers do not care. Consequently they make no effort to put names on the plants that they sell. Also for the same reason some growers will sell unnamed violets. I know how frustrating this can be to one who really wants to give their plants an identity. As for the plants which you have "adopted", it will be difficult to name them correctly unless you have a friend who has grown many violets over a long period of time and from her own experience can identify them.

Making a practice of buying only named violets will save you some frustrations and if we all do it maybe it will start a new trend.

QUESTION - Jim Crockett recently displayed a very well grown African violet on his T.V. Show "Crockett's Victory Garden". This plant was hydroponically grown and looked like perfection, with a mass of bloom. Would you recommend hydroponic growing for African violets? Would this solve the problem of re-arranging the watering schedule for winter heating and summer air-

conditioning? What are the necessary pots and supplies and where can they be obtained?

ANSWER - Hydroponic culture is called Chemical Agriculture, Tank Farming, Water Culture or Soilless Culture. When plants are grown by the Water-Culture method, the plants are supported by wire mesh above shallow tanks with their roots submerged in a nutrient solution. In the other methods the plants are planted in coarse gravel or similar material in benches and the nutrient solution which is in the tank beneath them, is pumped into the bench and then permitted to drain back into the holding tank. This is done at regular intervals, depending on the atmospheric conditions of the day. It requires considerable knowledge, skill and experience to use the method successfully but the results are sometimes spectacular. There have been many books written on the subject. Information should be available from your Agriculture Extension Agent or in any complete and large book store.

I have had no personal experience in growing African violets in this way, but at one time, we did grow cut flowers in our greenhouses using this type of culture. As a hobby it has attracted much attention and when it is operating properly it saves many hours of tedious watering. It does have its drawbacks however; if just one plant in the solution develops a disease within a few days the whole crop will have become infected; it moves that rapidly. If you have the time and the inclination to make a real study of it I am sure it will be worth your efforts. But you should understand all the principles involved before undertaking it.

QUESTION - I have read a little about Vitamin B-1 for stimulating indoor and outdoor flowering plants. Can you tell me where I may be able to buy or read about the use of this vitamin on African violets? I would like to know where to purchase vitamin B-1 for plants.

ANSWER - In my understanding of the process of plant growth, vitamins are as essential to plants as they are to humans, but unlike people, who must acquire them from eating meat and vegetables they are able to synthesize their own. The roots of the plant cannot manufacture them but they do obtain them exclusively from the young leaves of the plant. B-1 especially is translocated to the roots from the leaves. In my opinion it is questionable whether adding it to the soil of African violets would have any effect upon their growth. I understand that there are chemical fertilizers on the market that do include B-1 in their formula. Many of our advertisers in the AVSA magazine sell these fertilizers. Write to them for their recommendation.

QUESTION - I have a problem with mealy bugs and can't seem to get away from them. I read lots of

articles on them and they tell you how to get rid of them, but I can't seem to find anything on what causes them and how to prevent them. I live not too far from salt water and wonder if that has anything to do with them. I will get rid of them for a while and then in a short time they are back again.

ANSWER - I am assuming that you are referring to the white powdery insects that suck the leaves and the stems of plants and not the soil mealy bug. An infestation can come from many sources but principally from other plants that have already been infested with them. That lovely salty sea air of which you speak has nothing to do with them. Mealy bugs will reduce the vigor of your plant by removing the vital juices. Each female may lay 500 eggs during her life span, and these eggs hatch in about seven days. Soon they begin to feed on the plant. They breed constantly so it takes several applications of pesticides to completely wipe them out; not only the insects themselves but also the white cottony masses which contain the eggs. In the long view, it might be cheaper to dispose of the badly infested plants in order to protect your healthy ones. Also, be very observant when purchasing a violet; make sure that there is no evidence of them on it. And of course, the old rule of isolating all new plants for a period of two months before adding them to the rest of your collection is a good rule to follow. Consult your Agriculture Extension Agent for advice on the type of spray to use on them. Whatever you use be very careful to follow the directions specifically and to the letter. They are provided for you and written on the container for your protection.

I have read that mealy bugs cannot survive a hard cold winter. if that is true then surely the Mid-west and the North-east will be comparatively free of them this next summer!

QUESTION - I'm moving from New York to Florida this summer. I have about sixty African violets that I want to take with me. We will be traveling by car. Can you tell me what will be the safest and easiest way to transport them?

ANSWER - Moving African violets from one state to another is a favorite pastime of ours. We migrate with the seasons, from Maine to Ohio, and our plants go with us. If those sixty plants are small ones you should not have any trouble traveling with them. This is our way: Remove all open blossoms and water them well about two or three days before you pack them. This will make them more pliant and easy to handle. The long boxes which are used by wholesale florists in shipping cut flowers are ideal for packing. If you know a friendly florist perhaps you can buy one or two from him. Large square boxes about 10 inches high will also make good packing boxes.

Roll each little plant in a sheet of paper leaving the top side open; then fasten the paper securely by using scotch tape. Be very careful not to break the leaves as you bend them upward when rolling them. Now place them, close together in the boxes, so that they will be immovable and stuff paper around any area that is not used. If some of your plants are too large to handle in this way then make nests of the paper the size of the pot, making sure that there is enough paper around the nests to support the leaves of the plant. The plants should not be placed so close together that the leaves will break or so close to the edge of the box that they will get crushed. The number of plants that can be placed in one box will depend, of course, upon the size of the plants and the size of the box.

Our boxes are placed over the rest of the load in the station wagon; we make sure that the view from the rear window is not obstructed from the vision of the driver. It will be wise for you to measure your boxes inside the car before you begin to pack. In this way you will know ahead of time which box will go where for the maximum efficiency to travel. They should be stabilized firmly so that they will not shuffle around. The one hazard to watch for is not to let the hot sun strike them; keep the boxes covered. At night, when you stop, open the boxes so that some air will get to them and then, again, in the morning, cover them. Summer nights should be warm enough so that it will not be necessary to move the boxes into the motel.

Wrapped well and protected from the hot sun, violets will travel without mishap.

And so we come to the end of this, my first letter to you. When you read it I will have traveled to Maine for the summer and fall. When writing to me during this time and until the middle of October please use my Maine address.

Mrs. Chas. S. Hawley

P. O. Box 154

West Southport, ME 04576

Happy violeting,

Katy

Registering Judging Schools

Please write to Mrs. William J. Krogman, 1325 Parkway Drive, Brookfield, WI 53005, for application blanks to register judging schools. She is a member of the Shows & Judges Committee and will give you complete instructions.

To avoid a school not being properly registered, carefully read all rules for local chairmen printed in the "Handbook". Allow for delays in mail deliveries and all procedures to be followed.

PORTRAITS

It was African violets that decided Larry and Sunny Rosenfeld to move from New York to California.

"We used to attend all the AVSA convention/shows in different cities," Larry explained. "In 1970 the AVSA convention was held in San Francisco. We climbed a hill, looked around, and decided that this was where we wanted to settle down."

Larry is a lean, intense man in his sixties with definite ideas about the African violets he and Sunny have been growing for the past dozen or so years.

"I'm ruthless with them" he declares.

"When you're growing for show, as we do primarily, they have to meet certain specifications. The leaves have to be symmetrical, the blooms have to be a certain way. Suckers — little second plants — are not allowed. If a plant doesn't meet standards I break it down to a point where all the negative aspects are destroyed."

His wife smiles and shakes her head.

"I'm afraid mine is a more gentle approach," she concedes. "My method is not to shock them, to go easy. I don't like to throw plants away. But I'll have to admit, he's a better grower than I am. He produces a better plant."

Actually, the Rosenfelds' small neat house in El Cerrito holds relatively few violets. "We get our satisfaction from growing perfect plants," Larry says, but it is soon apparent that the "we" is a bit perfunctory. It is Larry who is the perfectionist. Sunny's thing is flower arranging, and indeed she does marvelous assemblages with twigs and leaves and dabs of wild anis pasted together to look like starbursts. If Sunny had her way, though, they probably would have twice as many violets.

The Rosenfelds are dead serious about growing African violets for show. About seven weeks before the event they'll strip all the blooms from their plants, then increase the light wattage, a process known as "forced growing" which if properly done results in more and bigger blooms. Larry ticks off the various points given at shows for plant perfection — thirty points for symmetry, for instance, twenty points for floriferousness. Both he and Sunny are "lifetime" African violet judges. Both are qualified to officiate at shows.

AWARDED PAINTING

Mrs. Clark (Ann) Carpenter of Port Arthur, Texas, was the lucky recipient of the beautiful oil painting done by Sandra Leary of St. Petersburg, Fla., formerly of Austin, Texas. Mrs. Leary is the AVSA advertising manager. The painting was awarded at the Austin Convention.

Learning Flower Arranging

*Mrs. Roy Lockhart
P. O. Box 20051
Birmingham, AL 35216*

Learning to arrange flowers creatively is really easy.

Here are a few suggestions to begin your practice:

1. Select a good sharp needlepoint holder and a suitable container.

2. Condition your plant material. Soak your flowers and line material two hours in a few inches of warm water — then place in a few inches of cold water overnight. (Pound about one inch of wood stems with a hammer before placing in water). If you don't have time to condition your plant material, just cut and use, hoping they'll stand up.

3. Select your equipment: (a) Containers — a low flat bowl or a tall cylinder. (b) Mechanics — a good sharp needlepoint holder. Floral Clay. A small knife. Wire cutters. Floral shears. A container of water to hold your cut plant material until you are ready to make your arrangement. (c) Flowers and Line Materials . . . Foliage and any flowers you have in bloom. Pussywillow, flowering quince, January jasmine or any other line material you prefer. I like to use a whole African violet plant for the center of interest, wrapped according to AVSA rules.

Begin your arrangement with your line and build in toward center of interest. Make every flower placement important. Use care selecting your material. Smaller, lighter color flowers are usually placed high and to the side. Larger darker colors are centered and low.

Generally spikes are used for height and round flowers are used for center of interest. Flower clusters are used to fill in voids.

Use your best material for the center of interest.

Trim your material if you feel it will give the arrangement a better line or a clearer, cleaner look. In pruning branches, remove all horizontal or crossing lines. Cut away all interfering parts. Cut the stems of your flowers in different lengths, but be sure of the length before you shorten the stem.

Place your material as if it were growing from the one point. Allow one type flower and color to predominate. Consider texture in container and flowers. Check your arrangement when it is complete.

Every arrangement should come from the heart, seeking to express some feeling of the arranger.

I feel arrangements should seek to glorify the flowers — not the arranger. There should always be room to see each flower, so don't bury them in close

masses or smother them with other plant material.

To study line take a pencil and paper and draw the line design you intend to follow. Keep your pencil drawing before you to remind you of your ultimate goal. Use your flowers and line material to develop this line into a beautiful floral design. Be sure all lines follow along together for a bit after they leave the container. This gives a feeling of growth and unity.

To achieve a more pleasing design, try curving the branches in soft lines. This can be accomplished by placing the thumbs and forefingers between the joints, twisting and bending them gently. If your line material has been conditioned, there will be no danger of breaking. Although your main line is curved, place it so the tip will be directly over its base. This is important. Cut your second line $\frac{2}{3}$ the length of your first line. Your third line is cut $\frac{1}{2}$ length of the first stem.

If you would like to, you may add flowers. You're on your own. Use your imagination and have fun. The secret to good flower arranging is practice. So let's all practice — practice — practice!

SERVICE AWARDS

Three AVSA members were officially recognized at the Austin Convention for their continuing service to AVSA. There were:

Miss Florence M. Garrity of Roslindale, MA, in appreciation of her excellent job as chairman of the Boston Convention 1975; for having served as an AVSA Director and an active participant on the membership and promotion committee, and now serving as AVSA treasurer.

Harold Rienhardt of Syracuse, NY, in appreciation of the many years he has served as vice chairman of Commercial Sales and Exhibits, and supervising the judging in the Commercial division, Harold will continue to help on this committee.

Mrs. Thomas B. (Myrtle) McKneely of McLean, VA in appreciation of her support to AVSA for many years. She is very active on the Shows and Judges Committee and is continuing with this committee. She is a Lifetime Judge and Judging School Teacher.

Affiliated Leadership Award Presented to Gladys Hudnall

The Ruth Carey Award for Affiliate leadership was awarded to Mrs. Gladys Hudnall of Austin, TX.

Upon retirement from a long time position in public life, Gladys converted what had been a hobby into a full and active participation in an AVSA Affiliate. With a vitality and enthusiasm that is uniquely hers, she has contributed in numerous capacities, always learning and sharing her knowledge with others.

In addition to various committee and officer assignments, Gladys has served as show chairman, vice-president and president of the First Austin AVS. She is a judge and helps to judge many shows, always willing to help other societies with any problems to follow AVSA guidelines. Because of her talent and knowledge, she is a very popular speaker for other garden clubs in the area as well as nearby AVSA Af-

filiates.

During the local shows and displays she is the "self appointed floor walker". Gladys is constantly circulating among the guests always ready with a quick word of information about anything from African violet culture to AVSA participation. She has steadfastly promoted AVSA membership, as well as influencing numerous persons to attend the AVSA Conventions.

During the past three years her support has surfaced in the position of vice chairman of the 1978 AVSA Convention. During 1977 there were changes, the general chairman moved out of the state having to resign and Gladys was elevated to that post. With her unique talents, Gladys, with her committee has made this AVSA Convention a success and a wonderful show.

NOT FOR COMMERCIALS ONLY Help Us Serve You Better

*Judy Stroske
Crestwood Violetry
7314 Jervis St.
Springfield, VA 22151*

With another ideal shipping season upon us, Commercial growers of African violets are swamped with orders from anxious customers. In order to speed delivery of plants and supplies, these Commercial growers need your help. Please follow these simple steps when ordering:

Step 1: PRINT your name and complete address (with Zip code). Most handwriting is beautiful and distinctive, but quite illegible.

Step 2: Be sure your name and address is on the order, NOT just on the envelope. The post office can destroy the outside of an envelope in 101 different ways. Use an order form if one is provided by the Commercial.

Step 3: List substitutes for the varieties you select. Most growers will substitute only if absolutely necessary. However, the supply of some popular varieties may run short. If you specify that you do not want any substitutes, it is possible that your order may be delayed until they are available.

Step 4: Be sure to include any applicable shipping charges or taxes with your order. Omission of these will cause undue delays in shipment.

Step 5: Do Not Send Cash Through The Mail!!! Nine times out of ten, some of it will be missing by the time it reaches the grower. Commercial cannot be expected to send plants when they have not received the full price of the order. For your own safety, please send a check or money order.

Step 6: Allow a reasonable period of time for delivery. In most cases, shipment will occur one to six weeks after the grower receives your request. Keep in mind that extreme weather conditions and holidays may delay mails. Also, most growers ship on a first received, first served basis. When you send an order to a Commercial in May, remember that a backlog of orders dated from January to April will have to be filled first.

Most Commercial Members of AVSA started as hobby growers like you. Many businesses are small and family run. They are not in business to take advantage of their customers. If you are not satisfied with a shipment and have followed the above directions **completely**, a short polite note to the grower should rectify any problem.

Mites Attacking African Violets

Dr. Charles L. Cole
Area Entomologist
Texas A&M University System
301 North Main
Bryan, TX 77801

More than 25 different species of mites have been recorded from African violets. Fortunately, not all of these are injurious to the plant. Mites collected from violets fall into four distinct groups. These are the scavengers, the fungus feeders, the predaceous mites and the plant feeders.

SCAVENGERS: The most common mites found on violets are the scavengers. They feed on decaying organic matter. Actually, they infest the soil in which the violet is growing. However, one may occasionally be found roaming around on the foliage. They may be milk-white, yellowish or brownish in color. Some are relatively large and may easily be seen with the naked eye although magnification does help. When conditions are favorable these mites may build up very large populations. They do not harm the plant and no control is necessary. If populations become large enough to be a nuisance Dicofol (Kelthane) or Diazinon applied to the soil surface should give adequate control.

FUNGUS FEEDERS: Mites which feed on fungi are occasionally found on the foliage but are most often found in the potting soil. Fungus feeding mites are usually not found in very large numbers. They do not harm the plant and no control is necessary. Several species of fungus feeding mites have been collected from violets.

PREDATORS: Predaceous mites feed on many small organisms including insects such as thrips and collembola. They also feed on other mites and are often found on plants infested with injurious species. Predaceous mites, as a rule, are more active and may be detected running about the plant in search of prey. Predaceous mites are beneficial to the violet grower as they many times destroy harmful pests before populations become large enough to cause visible damage.

PLANT FEEDERS: Mites which actually feed on violet plants may cause severe damage or even kill the plants. These pests feed by inserting their mouthparts into the plant tissue and sucking out plant juices. Damage results from a loss of plant sap and from the injection of toxic chemicals into the plant.

Several species of mites have been recorded as damaging African violets. These mites are extremely small and are seldom observed on plants before they cause visible damage. One who cultures violets

should become familiar with the habits of damaging species and the early symptoms that infestations produce in plants. This knowledge will enable growers to detect and control damaging species before significant damage can occur.

Cyclamen Mite, *Steneotarsonemus pallidus*: The cyclamen mite is the most devastating mite attacking African violets. Its ability to increase numbers rapidly, its detrimental effects upon the plant and the difficulty in controlling this mite make it the most feared of all violet pests.

The cyclamen mite is found throughout the world. It was first reported from the U.S. in 1898 (in New York) and from Canada in 1908. At the present time it is generally distributed throughout the U.S. The increase and spread of the cyclamen mite has been facilitated by the increased popularity of foliage plants and the resultant movement of plant materials throughout the continent.

Control of Cyclamen Mites: The wide host range of the cyclamen mite is a contributing factor to its spread. African violet growers cannot avoid coming into contact with this pest indefinitely and will sooner or later experience an infestation. Mites are easily spread on clothing, equipment, soil and hands, as well as by plant contact.

Infestations may often be avoided by close inspection of all plants prior to purchase. The isolation of all newly acquired plants for a period of time is an added precaution against spreading mites. The normal sanitary practices of culturing violets, such as the removal of spent and damaged plants, the use of clean equipment and the frequent inspection of plants also aid in preventing the introduction and spread of mites.

Heat may be used to control cyclamen mites. All stages can be killed with heat. For effective control, immerse infested plants with pot and soil for 15 minutes in water held precisely at 110°F (43°C). A heat chamber saturated with water vapor may also be used effectively. Expose infested plants in a heat chamber at 110°F (43°C) for 2 hours.

Cyclamen mites may be controlled chemically. Kelthane is specifically an acaricide and has been used successfully as a control for many species of mites. When used for the control of cyclamen mites on African violets, best results have been obtained

when 3 applications are made at 4-5 day intervals. These intervals may be lengthened to 7-10 days under cooler environments where a considerably longer period of time is required for this species to complete its life cycle. Effective control of the cyclamen mite has been achieved with one application of certain formulations of diazinon and Thiodan.

Broad Mite, Polyphagotarsonemus latus: The second most important mite attacking African violets is the broad mite. This species is also called the yellow tea mite and the tropical mite. It is distributed throughout the tropics and is found in greenhouses throughout the temperate region. The broad mite readily attacks about 50 plant species including a number of agricultural crops, wild plants and ornamentals. ornamental hosts include gerberas, dahlias, zinnias and chrysanthemums, as well as African violets.

Broad mites are colorless when young but become amber to dark green when grown. In greenhouses reproduction continues all year. Females lay 4-5 eggs each day. A generation may be completed in 4-5 days in the summer or in 10 days in the winter.

Damage from the broad mite is confined to the young foliage and flowers. They are found almost exclusively on the underside of the leaves. As this pest feeds it injects toxic chemicals into the plant which causes leaves to become brittle and to roll or curl under at the edges. As damaged leaves continue to grow they may split or crack, resulting in a ragged appearance. The lower surface of damaged leaves may have a bronzed appearance. Damage to flowers result in distorted or discolored petals. Heavy infestations stop growth and can kill the plant.

Broad mites are not as difficult to control as cyclamen mites. Effective chemicals include dicofol and chlorobenzilate. Two or 3 applications at 5-day intervals may be necessary for control. This species may also be controlled with a heat treatment such as used for controlling the cyclamen mite.

Privet Mite, Brevipalpus obovatus: The privet mite belongs to a group of mites called the "false spider mites". This mite is a pest of citrus and is found on more than 50 genera of ornamental plants.

Privet mites are very small and difficult to see without the aid of magnification. They are flat, oval and dark red in color. This mite is found on the underside of leaves and likes to gather along the leaf veins. When heavy populations occur they can be found throughout the entire leaf.

Damage from this mite may appear as small brown flecks on the foliage. Each fleck is actually a small group of dead cells killed by the toxic chemicals injected into the leaf. The underside of infested leaves may appear bronzed while the upper leaf surface may show a red discoloration.

The life cycle of this mite varies with temperature and may range from about 11 days at a temperature of 32°C to 26 days at a temperature of 20°C.

Other Mites: Other mites reported as damaging African violets include **Brevipolpus phoenices**, a species which is found on the underside of the foliage and causes chlorotic spotting of the foliage and stunting. The two-spotted spider mite, **Tetranychus urticae**, is the most common mite found on ornamentals and houseplants. However, it does not attack violets so frequently. Damage from this species appears as speckled or yellowish areas on the leaves. Heavy infestations can cause stunting and death of plants.

MITE CONTROL: Due to the habits of mites, thorough coverage is necessary if control is to be achieved. Special attention should be given to the crown of the plant and to the junction of the leaf and petiole. If a few mites are left untreated resurgence of the population may occur.

A number of the pesticides which are effective on mites and which are cleared for use by the Environmental Protection Agency are as follows:

Chemical	Pests	Site
carbaryl (Sevin)	mites	African violets
Chlorobenzilate	mites	Ornamental plants
diazinon	mites	African violets
dicofol (Kelthane)	cyclamen mites	African violets
dimethoate (Cygon, De-fend)	mites	Ornamental plants
disulfoton (Di-Syston)	mites	Ornamental houseplants
dursban	mites	Ornamental houseplants
endosulfan (Thiodan)	cyclamen mites	Ornamental plants
Malathion	mites	African violets
Meta-systox-R	mites	Flowering plants
naled (Dibrom)	mites	Ornamental plants
systox	mites	Flowering plants
Tedion	mites	Ornamental plants

Many products contain solvents or other ingredients which may cause spotting or leaf burn on violets. Before purchasing a product be sure it is labeled for your specific need. Before using a pesticide read the label and follow all directions carefully.

Life History and Habits: The cyclamen mite is about 1/100 inch in length and is extremely difficult to detect without the aid of magnification. They develop most rapidly at a temperature of 16°C (60°F) and a humidity of 80-90 percent. Under optimum conditions tremendous populations may develop in a relatively short time.

Adult mites are oval in shape and are amber to tan in color. They are translucent and glisten as if wet or oily. Female mites live for about one month. They lay from 1-3 eggs each day and may produce a total of 100 eggs or more during their lifetime.

Eggs, although microscopic in size, are relatively

large, being one-half the size of the adult itself. Eggs are oval in shape, glossy white and are unmarked. They hatch in 3-7 days depending upon the temperature.

Larvae of this mite are milky white in color and shiny in appearance. They actively feed on the plant for 1-4 days before molting to the pupal stage.

Pupae are white in color and are inactive. They develop and molt to the adult stage in 2-7 days. The life cycle may be completed in from 1-3 weeks. There are reports of the life cycle being as long as 7 weeks under colder conditions.

The amelioration of the environment provided by a home or greenhouse enables cyclamen mites to multiply and develop the year-round. Natural populations, exposed to the environment, overwinter as adults which begin to lay eggs in the spring. A peak in population usually occurs in June or July. In greenhouses very heavy populations often occur in the fall.

Cyclamen mites avoid light. They seek out the protected area of the plant crown or folds in the leaf where it joins the petiole. Varieties with ruffled or quilted foliage provide more protection and may be conducive to higher mite populations.

Host Plants: Cyclamen mites have a very wide host plant range. They readily attack many species of plants used as shrubs or houseplants. A number of the most common plants attacked by cyclamen mites are:

African Violet, Begonia, Chrysanthemum, Cyclamen, Dahlia, Delphinium, Geranium, Gerbera, Ivy, Larkspur, Petunia, Pikake, Snapdragon, Strawberry and Watercress.

Damage: African violets attacked by cyclamen mites exhibit definite characteristics. These characteristics are generally evident long before the mite itself can be found. Damage occurs when mites insert their sucking type mouthparts into tissue and remove plant sap. During the feeding process mites inject a toxic chemical into the plant. This chemical disrupts the normal growth pattern of the plant.

Light infestations may cause blasting (the shedding of small flower buds). Leaves will twist, curl and become brittle. Flower buds may fail to open and, if they do open, they may be undersized, deformed or streaked with darker colors.

Heavy infestations may result in the blackening of leaf and flower buds. Leaflets will appear excessively hairy and may soon die. The terminal of the plant may be killed. If heavy infestations are neglected they can kill the plant.

After infestations have been controlled, plants may continue to exhibit certain symptoms for a considerable length of time. These include the twisting and curling of leaves, undersized blooms and the streaking and darkening of flowers. These symptoms

are an expression of one, or both, of two different phenomena. First, this may be the result of growth distorting chemicals which have been injected into the plant by mites and second, in the case where the plant terminal has been destroyed, a hormonal imbalance resulting from the destruction of auxin (a hormone found in young growing tissue). The destruction of auxin results in the production of ethylene. Ethylene, in turn, causes epinasty or leaf-curling.

Plants will fully recover from cyclamen mite damage in time. After proper pruning of deformed growth, plants will appear perfectly normal.

Lifetime Judges Exam Deadline

The deadline for submitting Lifetime Judges' exams has been changed to October 1. Questions will be ready for mailing mid-summer.

Send your request for questions NOW with a check for \$1.00 payable to AVSA, plus a LONG, STAMPED, SELF ADDRESSED ENVELOPE to Mrs. James B. Carey, 3900 Garden Drive, Knoxville, TN 37918.

Judges making application for lifetime certificate must send required evidence of eligibility. Refer to the 1978 PURPLE COVER "African Violet Handbook" revision, page 100, 101. Please note this is a new revision - just printed in 1978.

New 1978 Handbook —Purple Cover

Ruth G. Carey

I have completed all legal procedures to give the copyright of the African Violet Handbook for Judges and Exhibitors' to the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

The 1978 revision (Purple Cover) is now available and may be ordered from the office of the "African Violet Society of America, Inc., P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, TN 37901."

The books are \$3.00 each. Please make checks payable to African Violet Society of America, Inc., which includes postage to Canada and United States. Canada orders should be accompanied by money orders or U.S. funds.

Honor Roll Of African Violets

Mrs. Leon (Irene) Fiedler
Rt. 1
Prescott, WI 54021



Successor to Mrs. M. G. Gonzales

To be on the Honor Roll, a variety must have appeared on the Best Varieties List for five consecutive years.

1968

Christmas Holly (Reed)
Champion's Water Lily No. 1289 (Champion's African
Violets)
Silver Crest No. 1161 (Mrs. Duane L. Champion)
White Perfection No. 1471 (Lyndon Lyon)

1969

Tommie Lou No. 1744 (Oden)
Peak of Pink No. 1467 (Lyon)
Master Blue No. 1465 (Lyon)
Candy Lips No. 1461 (Lyon)
Clipper No. 1724 (Lyon)
Crown of Red No. 1462 (Lyon)
Plum Tip No. 1468 (Lyon)
Leawala (Lyon)
Full Stop (Lyon)

1970

Strawberry Shortcake No. 1509 (Taylor)
Jolly Giant No. 1549 (Lyon)
My Darling (Luciano)
Purple Choice (Lyon)
Red Honey No. 1551 (Lyon)
Cousin Janet No. 1547 (Lyon)
Icy Peach No. 1642 (Lyon)

1971

Lullaby No. 1783 (Granger)
Pink Jester No. 1598 (Granger)
Prom Queen No. 1533 (Granger)
Henny Backus No. 1725 (Lyon)
Hello Dolly No. 1641 (Lyon)
Tinted Frills (Lyon)
Red Cavalier (Lyon)
Janny No. 1527 (Granger)
Happy Time No. 1866 (Lyon)
Wrangler No. 1731 (Lyon)
Magnifica No. 1643 (Lyon)
Alakazam No. 1723 (Lyon)
Cochise (Lyon)
Emperor No. 1597 (R. J. Taylor)
Ruby (Lyon)

1972

No African violets qualified.

1973

Autumn Russet No. 1777 (Granger Gardens)
Charm Glow No. 1779 (Franger Gardens)
Granger Garden's Pied Piper No. 2021 (Granger Gardens)

1974

Ann Slocomb No. 1907 (Lanigan)
Blizzard (Lyon)
Bullseye (Lyon)
Creekside Moonbeam (Bea Mills)
Dazzling Deceiver No. 1865 (Lyon)
Rhapsodie Claudia (Holtkamp)
Rhapsodie Gisela (Holtkamp)
Rhapsodie Elfriede (Holtkamp)
Triple Threat No. 1989 (Lyon)

1975

Brigadoon No. 1014 (Granger Gardens)
Butterfly White No. 1983 (Lyndon Lyon)
Blue Reverie No. 2013 (Granger Gardens)
After Dark No. 2117 (Richter)
Firebird No. 2018 (Granger Gardens)
Granger's Carefree No. 2221 (Granger Gardens)
Jingle Bells (Richter)
Rhapsodie Gigi (Holtkamp)
Rhapsodie Ophelia (Holtkamp)

1976

Fashionaire No. 2223 (Granger)
Nancy Reagan No. 2167 (Rienhardt)
Happy Harold No. 2165 (Rienhardt)
Top Dollar No. 2168 (Rienhardt)
Poodle Top No. 2053 (Tinari)
Chanticleer No. 1386 (Granger)
Jennifer No. 2006 (Tinari)
Royalaire No. 2023 (Granger)
Floral Fantasy No. 1986 (Lyon)
Softique No. 1957 (Richter)
Granger's Peach Frost No. 2216 (Granger)
Granger's Peppermint No. 2227 (Granger)
Pink Panther No. 2108 (Lyon)

1977

Garnet Elf No. 2339 (Granger)
Like Wow No. 2329 (Lyon)
Mary D No. 2675 (Maas)
Miriam Steel No. 2276 (Granger)

Texas Grower Is Awarded Bronze Medal Certificate

Howard Utz of San Antonio, TX, made his first African violet cross 23 years ago. This initial curiosity soon led to the development of a sound basic philosophy reflecting his concern for high achievement in African violet hybridizing. He decided that just creating a new variety of his very own was not enough, it had to be different and better, and one that would perform for those who grew to show.

He knew about shows because he was one of a small group of people who got together and formed the First San Antonio AVC, for the purpose of learning to grow better plants for shows. Their shows soon became regular calendar events, and violet fans would come from miles around to see the latest Utz introductions.

Equal in importance with his hybridizing efforts was the warm rapport Mr. Utz developed with growers around the state. Always smiling and ever optimistic, he welcomed any and all visitors to his plant room, tirelessly pulling new seedlings from crowded shelves, showing them to anyone who was interested. His enthusiasm was infectious and stimulating to many who soon became interested in hybridizing. He offered many Texas growers a chance to obtain brand new unreleased seedlings from him to see how they would perform under different conditions before putting them on the market. He stressed the importance of show quality foliage, large blossoms and heavy bloom count. He cautioned against releasing single blossom cultivars for fear

they would not come up to growers expectations.

He is a Commercial AVSA member and a strong AVSA supporter, attending conventions whenever possible and encourages anyone interested in violets to join AVSA. He is very much in favor of plant registrations, but Mr. Utz prefers to wait until time proves a plant to be worthy of AVSA registration.

His strongest interest, and the trademark of his varieties, lies in the multitonned blossoms with series of light and dark edges. His plants have caught on easily because of their unusual color combinations and the robust strength of the plants themselves. Some of his earliest releases have withstood the critical test of time. They are still show stoppers and winning top awards.

Mr. Utz spends nearly all his time now working with violets, and with his club in which he is still an active member. He retired a few years ago as a photoengraver, after an earlier successful career as an opera singer. One of his plants, 'Texas Charmer', seems to typify the man who has become THE TEXAS CHARMER, bright, sharp and delightful. He claims to have been inspired by Texas growers, but we know it is the other way around, for he has long been an inspiration to growers and hybridizers fortunate enough to know him personally.

The hands of the articulate engraver continue to work like Merlin's Wand, transferring pollen from one plant to the blossom of another, in hopes of producing the best new cultivars yet.

DORA BAKER RECIPIENT OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Mrs. Harold (Dora) Baker of St. Paul, MN received one of AVSA's highest awards at the Austin convention. It was the Distinguished Service Award.

Dora has been a member of the African Violet Society of America since 1949. She did a great deal to form clubs in her area that became affiliated with AVSA. Dora has held offices in her local clubs as well as Chairing for the local shows. She has supported AVSA for many years.

Dora served as general chairman for the 1956 AVSA Minneapolis Convention, AVSA director, chairman of the Executive Directors Committee, second vice-president, temporary treasurer and time and place chairman for the past twelve years. This

was a chairmanship well done.

She is a Life Member and Lifetime Judge and Judging School Teacher.

The honors she received are the Honorary One Year Membership in 1955 and 1964, the Ruth Carey Affiliate Leadership Award in 1956 and the Honorary Life Membership in 1965.

Dora will continue to serve AVSA well.

PLEASE BE PATIENT

If your article or picture has not been printed in the magazine, please be patient. As soon as space is available, it will be used.

BEGINNER'S COLUMN

Mrs. J.A.W. (Ann) Richardson
RR #1, Box 70
Tavares, FL 32778



A PEP TALK FOR DISCOURAGED BEGINNERS

Recently I have been receiving letters from beginners expressing their discouragement about the fact that their African violets do not have as much bloom as those in the magazine. The plants you see pictured have had the acme of care by experienced growers. In time, you too will have the education and experience to grow beautiful African violets. Remember that Rome was not built in a day. Study everything you can get your hands on such as the "African Violet Handbook for Judges and Exhibitors" which is not only for judges and exhibitors but for anyone who wants to learn how to grow better African violets. Buy or borrow from the Library books which go into detail on the culture of these plants and of course, read the *African Violet Magazine* from cover to cover. Put the knowledge gained to use. Do not try everything at once. Be patient and try one method at a time for sufficient time to be sure it is going to work. If you find the method working only partly, try to discover what it is that is lacking and make the correction. Sometimes a simple little thing such as using rain water instead of tap water will make the difference.

Many of the plants in the magazine are show plants. They have been especially grown and often have been allowed to bloom only once in a year to be sure that the blossom is what it should be. For some growers, it is worth it just to take place in a show. The average person would rather have bloom on a day to day, month to month basis. For these people fewer blossoms are enough to enjoy. This is not to say that they should be satisfied with two or three but that a happy medium would be satisfactory. The Handbook says under "Floriferousness (quantity of bloom according to variety) duPonts, Amazons and Supremes are not considered prolific bloomers. 10-15 blooms on a single crown plant would be considered an average number, while in standard varieties 20-25 blossoms would be considered an average number on a mature plant. The size of the plant or the amount of foliage should be considered in determining the number of blossoms it should have. The number of flowers expected on larger than average size plants should be in proportion to the size of the leaf pat-

tern." This means just what it says, i.e. that young, small plants will have fewer blossoms than older, larger plants.

The November issue of the magazine will give you a list of the year's best varieties together with the number of votes each plant received as voted by the membership. You will find that most of these plants are registered which means that before they were registered they went through three generations to be sure they come true. Some of them have been around for a long time and have consistently taken first, second or third place in shows. That is why they are the favorites of the membership. You can't go wrong by choosing them. Some plants by nature are sparse bloomers and it makes little difference what you do for them - they still have few blossoms. Others are prolific bloomers and will bloom their little hearts out without your breaking your heart over them. It would seem that those that make the Best Varieties list would be amongst the latter kind.

Remember that it is a myth that African violets are hard to grow. As I tell my audiences, "Short of singing in the opera, you can do anything you want to do". Don't despair. If you are not satisfied with your plants, keep asking "WHY?" and then find out why. Your best source is your local African violet club or a friend who grows beautiful plants. Reread your material on culture. Perhaps you missed something the first time. Try a new method if you feel sure you have given the present one plenty of time to prove itself. Whatever you do, don't give up. Even I have had failures. All they want are "the proper" - proper cleansing, feeding, humidity, light, potting, soil, space, spraying, temperature and watering.

CURLING FOLIAGE

If foliage curls down around the pots, the plants may be receiving too much reflected light from the shelves or trays on which they are sitting. Line the trays with black plastic or paint shelves a dark color to reduce the amount of reflected light.

Honorary Life Membership Awarded Melva Nelson

Mrs. Edward A. (Melva) Nelson of St. Louis, MO, was honored with an Honorary Life Membership at the 1978 Austin AVSA Convention with a citation reading as follows:

Melva is a charter member of the Amethyst AVC organized in 1952, is a member of the Metropolitan St. Louis AVS and the St. Louis Judges' Council. For these societies she has served as president, vice-president and secretary, has been chairman of shows and judges. She has been chairman of ways and means for the Metropolitan St. Louis AVS for many years.

Besides belonging to violet clubs, she is active with the Federated Women's Club, Federated Garden Club, Needlework Guild and her Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood.

Melva is a very popular speaker on growing African violets, she makes long trips to judge shows in other states. With all her activities, Melva is very punctual with her commitments.

Melva is an AVSA Life Member, Lifetime Judge and Judging School Teacher. She has served in a very competent and gracious manner as director, recording secretary, advertising manager, general chairman of the 1968 St. Louis AVSA Convention, vice-president and president of AVSA.

The honors she has received are the Honorary One Year Membership in 1965 and the Ruth Carey Affiliate Leadership Award in 1969.

Melva is dedicated in promoting new memberships for AVSA and a loyal member herself. She has been a very gracious president for the past two years.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD TO ANNE TINARI

For her loyalty and devotion to AVSA since its inception nearly 30 years ago, Anne Tinari was awarded the AVSA Distinguished Service Award at the AVSA convention in Austin, TX.

Anne is Mrs. Frank (Anne) Tinari of Huntingdon Valley, PA. She is a charter member of the African Violet Society of America, which was formed in 1946. She has helped with the ground work for this society to become as large as it is today, and has continued to support AVSA in many ways. Ever since the first convention in 1947, Anne is a regular.

With her knowledge and personality it was "a natural" for Anne to be assigned editor of "Question Box" for publication in the African Violet Magazine. Since the March 1959 issue, her column has been outstanding. She has received letters from all parts of the world asking for information. This is a long time for one feature with deadlines to meet.

Another field of activity has been her willingness to speak and lecture on African violet growing and culture for AVSA Affiliates, garden clubs, television, radio and other groups interested in growing violets. AVSA has received many new memberships from this. In lieu of speaker's fee, Anne has donated it to the Boyce Edens Fund and the Booster Fund.

Anne has served as a Director, is a Life Member, Lifetime Judge and Judging School Teacher. Anne

has taught the AVSA Judging School many times at Conventions.

The honors she has received are Honorary One Year Membership in 1958 and the Honorary Life in 1971.

CROSS YOUR I's . . . and DOT YOUR T's . . .

Mrs. W. F. Anderson
360 Tulip Drive
St. Louis, MO 63119

In this hectic, bustling, hurry-scurry age we live in, more and more abbreviations become a part of our everyday life. When you read SASE, translate it to "please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for a reply".

Extend the courtesy of a SASE to your AVSA officers, committee chairmen, and the Editor when you have a question. All officers, committee heads and magazine columnists are volunteer workers for the society. They need every consideration to save their time as well as expenses. Do your share. Enclose a SASE. It will be appreciated.

Awards Needed for 1979 Convention / Show

Celine Chase, Chairman

The AVSA Awards Committee is now receiving awards for the 1979 Denver Convention/Show.

A big "Thank You" to AVSA members, affiliate chapters, state societies or councils, commercial growers and suppliers of material used by African violet growers for your generous and active support for many years. I'm sure the people who receive your awards, thank you, too.

Let's make the 1979 Convention a success too, by getting your awards to me by September 1, 1978, in order to appear in the January AVM. Any award received after that will be in the souvenir book, deadline for this is January 1, 1979, no awards accepted after that.

There are a few things to keep in mind: The award must not present impractical problems for the judges and must be within the show schedule. It is not always possible to allocate an award to a specific class because many of our long term sponsors have given awards for certain classes, also some other person may have requested the class earlier.

Awards for special cultivars should be in early, June is a good time to start, so that the exhibitor is aware in advance and has time to groom for show.

The award must be some suitable item or cash. All items other than cash are to be delivered to the Awards Aide, Mrs. Marilyn Corwin, 8300 Sheridan #13-G, Arvada, CO 80003, or you may bring them to the Convention. When advising me of your award, please specify whether you will bring it with you or mail it to Mrs. Corwin. Cash awards are to be paid by check made out to AVSA Convention Fund and mailed to Mrs. Richard A. Chase, Awards Chairman, 482 Rutherford Avenue, Redwood City, CA 94061.

We thank all sponsors for their cooperation to make the Denver show a success. See you in Denver, 1979.

Registering Judging Schools

Please write to Mrs. William J. Krogman, 1325 Parkway Drive, Brookfield, WI 53005, for application blanks to register judging schools. She is a member of the Show & Judges Committee and will give you complete instructions.

To avoid a school not being properly registered, carefully read all rules for local chairmen printed in the "Handbook". Allow for delays in mail deliveries and all procedures to be followed.

Memberships Are Awarded

Honorary one year memberships were awarded the following at the AVSA Convention in Austin:

Russell Marshall of Warwick, RI in recognition of his work as an AVSA Director, Vice Chairman of the Library Committee, his work on the Awards Committee and photography for the AVSA Library.

Mrs. Donald N. (Janet) Riemer of Kendall Park, NJ, in recognition of her work in supporting AVSA as a speaker on African violets, as an AVSA judge, promoting new AVSA members and attending AVSA Conventions.

Mrs. Myrtle Clement of Providence, RI, in recognition of her work promoting new AVSA memberships, supporting local AVSA Affiliates in many capacities and she attends AVSA Conventions yearly.

Mrs. Charles S. (Catherine) Hawley of Columbus, OH in recognition of her support as an AVSA Director, on Publications Committee, nominating Committee, Vice Chairman of the Library Committee and is now serving as "Question Box" Editor for AVSA.

Mrs. Carol (Violet) Miester of St. Louis, MO, in recognition of her help to AVSA as a Lifetime judge, judging at AVSA Conventions and as the Registration Chairman for the 1977 St. Louis AVSA Convention.

Mrs. J. Monroe (Jean) Achauer of Milwaukee, WI, in recognition of her work as an AVSA judge, working with Affiliates to support AVSA and presenting a program on "Planting Terrariums" at the 1977 St. Louis AVSA Convention.

Mrs. L. F. (Dorothy) Lidiak of Austin, TX, in recognition of her support to AVSA as Chairman of the Boyce Edens Research Fund, as AVSA judge and Vice Chairman of the 1978 Austin Convention.

When To Water?

No definite time can be given as to when the plants need water. Every home is different, the location, the size of the plants, the size of the flower pot, the condition of the plant and the time of the year, all make watering your plants the most important part of growing your violets. The roots of a newly transplanted violet are disturbed and it takes a few weeks to adjust itself and use the same amount of water as it did before. Don't be too good to your plant and give it more water than it can use. After transplanting, water it well and then wait until the top of the soil is dry before watering the second time.



Musings from the "Mini-Mam"

Mrs. Sidney (Ellie) Bogin
Chr. Miniature and Semimini Class
39 Boyd Street
Long Beach, NY 11561

From a lot of the mail I have received I see that I was not explicit enough in my discussion of the capillary matting. I should not have assumed that people were familiar with it. The matting looks like recycled old overcoats. It is a medium gray with flecks of blue and red. One side has a plastic like finish and the other has a rough surface with little threads sticking up. The plastic side should be face down in the tray. The little rough threads on the side facing up, contact the bottom of the pot and provide a capillary action much like wicking but without the bother of all those little jars to fill and clean.

Many people are using inexpensive plain blanket material with good results. I tried a white blanket and found it stayed too wet. The gray capillary matting is what is used in commercial greenhouses.

The matting can be thrown right into the washing machine on a gentle cycle. So far, my plants have been sitting on it for six months and I have not found any algae or fertilizer buildup.

'Little Rascal' has come up for discussion as some people found it did not match the description in the miniature list. I contacted Lyndon Lyon and found out that the plant has changed. It now shows up mostly dark blue with a white edge but occasionally the original coloring will come out. I have the plant both ways.

'Purple Spot' and 'Red Spot' have been changed to semiminatures.

The following are new varieties from Lyndon Lyon that I have been growing for awhile and found delightful: 'Corkie', semidouble rosy pink — miniature girl; 'Kuddly', mini double white mottled red with tailored foliage; 'Little Buckeroo', double royal purple with semiholly foliage, a mini; 'Dear Ellie', a fantastic semiminature with a semidouble white blossom and a dark blue eye, (I counted ten buds on each flower stem); 'Mr. Tinkle', miniature with a girl leaf and a bouquet of red double blooms; 'Wee Star', a tailored mini with a good size white single star; 'Lil Dickens', a double frilly red star mini with a dark tailored leaf; 'Isla Montgomery', a miniature 'Tommie Lou' even to the color blossom and is put out by Miller's African Violets.

Although summer is again upon us and our thoughts and time are involved in our outdoor gardens, we should not neglect our violets. Those of you who plan summer vacations should invest in the capillary matting which will enable you to take the

time away from your plants without worry. Mine were left for nine days last August with nary a plant lost and in excellent condition.

With the buildup of heat during the summer months, some plants undergo changes. Fantasy and two-tone blossoms can turn solid, wavy leaves can become tailored, double blossoms can turn single and variegates usually turn green. With the advent of cooler days and nights in the fall most of them will revert back to the original.

The buildup of nitrogen may cause the centers of some plants to tighten. Not all tight centers denote mites. If it does occur, one or two waterings with a teaspoon of dolomite lime to a gallon of water will loosen them.

Make sure you pick off all dead blooms or leaves and keep your trays clean. If you are not against insecticides, a weekly spray, alternating Kelthane and Malathion will prevent trouble. Alternating the sprays keeps the insects, etc., from developing an immunity.

If you are lucky enough to have your plants in an air conditioned room, they will be comfortable. If not, a fan will cool them off and help air circulation.

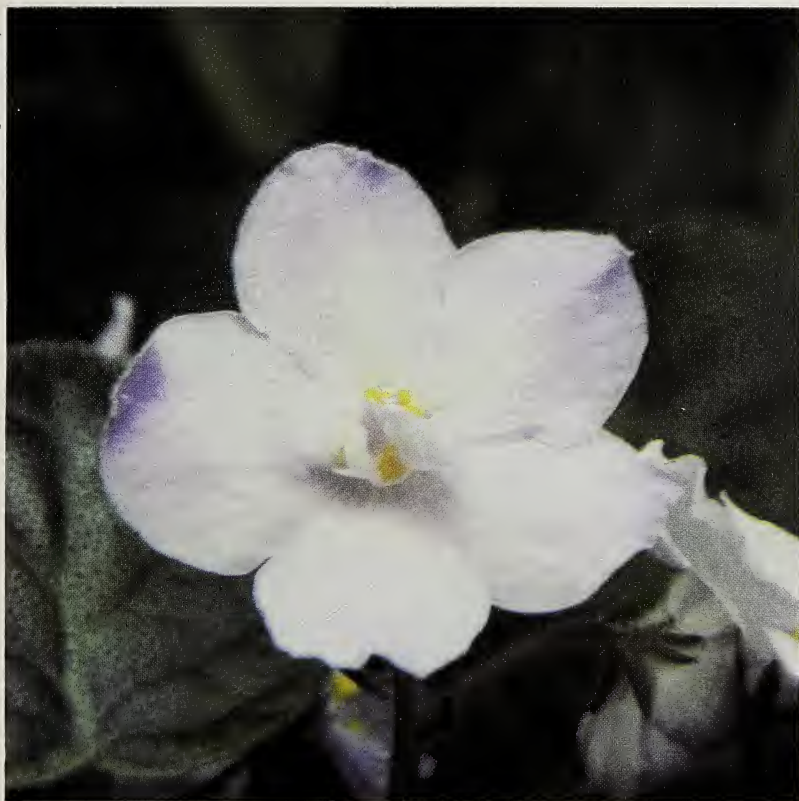
Keep up your constant feeding with 1/4 tsp. of fertilizer to a gallon of warm water on individual plants or onto the capillary matting. This will insure even leaf growth and you will not be faced with two larger rows of leaves sandwiching a short row that resulted from lack of fertilizer. Summer is a normal growth cycle for all plants and violets are no exception.

With a minimum of care you can relax and enjoy your summer with the knowledge that your minis will be ready to take off in the fall.

The 1975 Miniature and Semiminature Culture and Variety list is available from me at the price of \$2.00. PLEASE MAKE CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS OUT TO AVSA. The 1976 and 1977 supplements will be included. If you already have the list and want either or both supplements, send me a LARGE ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE. Please do not staple checks to the letter.

DON'T GET LAZY

Just because it's summer, don't get lazy and neglect your plants. Continue to care for your African violets the same as you did during the winter months.



SMOKEY VIOLET

by Kostulias
Mineola, NY

Taffy Pull

by
Mrs. Chas Hawley
Columbus, Ohio



AVSA AFFILIATES

*Mrs. Wayne (Mildred) Schroeder
Affiliate Chairman
1739 N 74th Court
Elmwood Park, IL 60635*



The mail piles up, award packets must be processed, charters for the new year must go out, and the phone rings with the question, "Is it too late to receive the awards I forgot to request"? That sentence describes the spring season for the AVSA Affiliate Chairman. It is also a very busy and exciting time for the 29,000 members of the society. Shows, improved with each passing season, are a focal point of the year.

A great big "Thank You" to all show chairmen who have returned their show reports to me so quickly. I find the new forms and instructions are being followed efficiently and well. Keep it up! Please remember . . . if the club president or some other officer requests the awards packets she must include in her letter the name and complete address of the show chairman to whom the packet will be sent. Of the clubs having shows early in the year, two have received the blue rosette, designating a score of 95 or more points. These shows must be excellent. Congratulations to these clubs and all others who will win the green and blue rosettes for shows of this caliber!

The Central Florida AVS is a 100% AVSA member club although by my error, they were not listed as such in the November AV Magazine. The omission of that tiny little asterisk was the culprit. Sorry! May I remind the affiliated clubs that your dues must be paid before July 1, in order to have your club listed as an affiliate in the magazine November issue. The deadline for copy makes this a must.

Our Australian AVSA affiliate members certainly know how to grow beautiful African violets! On a recent trip to that country down under, I was privileged to spend a day in the company of members of the EARLY MORN and WARRAGUL and DISTRICT African Violet Societies. Although it was a national holiday in Australia, these fine members managed to get their group representatives together for a lovely luncheon and also a tea. I found their homes filled with beautiful plants and their glasshouses brimming with the color characteristic of the violet. Their hybridizing programs are showing some very fine plants also. Our hats are off to these fine members for their gracious hospitality and their loyalty and interest in our AVSA.

We welcome into affiliation the following clubs:

HUDSON HIGHLANDS AFRICAN VIOLET

SOCIETY, Pres. Ms Ann Henninger, 274 B Bowman Loop, West Point, NY 10996

HUNTSVILLE HILLS AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, Pres. Ms Jill Smith, Rt 6, Box 300A, Huntsville, TX 77340

QUAD CITIES AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, Pres. Ms Sally J. Stocker, Box 882, Orion, IL 61273

FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CANYON LAKE, Pres. Mrs. G. W. Goodrich, Rt. 4, Box 426E, Canyon Lake, TX 78130

CENTRAL JERSEY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, Pres. Mr. Joseph Hoe, 20 Winton Rd. E, Brunswick, NJ 08816

DIE WUNDERBARE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, Pres. Ms Darlene Knippa, 993 Rosemary, New Braunfels, TX 78130

FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, Pres. Ms Lilith Fleischer, Rt. 2, Weatherford, TX 76086

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CHENEY, Pres. Ms Molly Hughes, Rt. 1, Box 340, Cheney, WA 99004

LAMPLIGHTERS AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, Pres. Mrs. Dorothy Bray, 2335 Simas Ave., Pinole, CA 94564

SAN DIEGO DAYTIME AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, Pres. Mrs. Frances C. King, 3327 28th St., San Diego, CA 92104

17 Affiliates Get Achievement Awards

Standard Show Achievement Awards were presented to 17 AVSA Affiliates at the Austin convention. These included the Miracle Strip AVS of Panama City, Florida; The First AVS of Wichita Falls, Texas; The First Austin (Texas) AVS; Columbus (Ohio) AVS; Mid-South AVS of Tennessee; Copper City (New York) AVS; AVS of Syracuse, NY; Union County (New Jersey) Chapter AVS; Montgomery (Alabama) AVS; Houston (Texas) Gesneriad Society; Troy (Alabama) AVS; Windsor (Connecticut) AVS; AV Study Club of Birmingham, AL; Central Florida AVS; Violet Harmony Club of Texas; Greater Kansas City (MO) AVC, and Upper Pinellas AVS of Florida.

YOUR LIBRARY

Harvey L. Stone
51 Peach Highlands
Marblehead, MA 01945



One year ago I mentioned that after the worst winter in our history, I'd rather forget it than remember it. Well, we had "Super Storm of '78" in January and "The Great Storm of '78" in February, and I certainly would rather forget this past winter! I'm sure that many thousands of you all over this great country of ours share that feeling!

The winter storms caused much trouble in receiving, using and returning or forwarding the slide programs and I want to thank each and everyone who was so inconvenienced. Your patience and understanding helped all concerned. Violet people really are the nicest people in the world!

By now many of you are relaxing at home after a wonderful 32nd annual convention at Austin, TX. Don't you think Convention Chairman Gladys Hudnall, Vice-Chairman Dorothy Lidiak, and Show Chairman Frances Young, together with all the loyal workers who helped to make the convention such a success, deserve a rousing vote of thanks? Didn't you enjoy that TX hospitality?

My personal thanks, together with those of AVSA go out to all the wonderful violeteers who turned their talents to photography and assisting the photographers Thursday night to help produce the new slide programs which we all look forward to. Hopefully their labors will result in the regularly produced new programs for you to enjoy showing at your meetings. I will list each of these workers in the September magazine.

This year we had the largest group working till the wee small hours that I've ever seen. We hope to be able to announce some new slide programs to replace those that some of you have been noting on the comment sheets are outdated.

Once again in this issue you will find an up-to-date listing of the slide programs that are available, including the two we realize from each convention. We reserve one of these in February for a California affiliate for showing next fall! Why not have your program chairman send in a request right away so you may have the program you want when you want it?

Some of you have asked for new/different installation programs. The only way we can get these for your use is to have those of you who have good ceremonies in your files share them by sending us a copy. Please send them to Mrs. Arthur F. (Mary) Boland, 6415 Wilcox Court, Alexandria, VA 22310.

Those that can be used will be sent to the Knoxville office, listed in the magazine and be available for loan. Any which cannot be used will be returned with thanks.

I am finally ready to begin processing the comment sheets you return with slide programs. I will answer those requiring answers and hope to be able to catch up soon and then remain relatively current. Include your name and mailing address at the bottom of the comment sheet if you want anything answered. Our Library assistant in the Knoxville office, Mrs. Joyce Lovell, knows to whom the programs were sent and who returned them—I do not! Any comments indicating bent or otherwise damaged slides, missing slides, etc., will receive prompt attention by Mrs. Lovell. She will make the necessary replacements/repairs as soon as she can without tying up the use of the program. She is doing a great job.

This is the time of the year to start planning to attend our next convention. It will be Denver in '79 and the dates will be changed from April to June—hopefully to permit some sightseeing which might not be possible in April. This means that instead of the slide programs from the Denver convention being available by July 1, they will not be available until September 1. It also means that we have more time to plan and save towards going to our next convention.

THIS IS MY WIFE

by Vaughn E. Smith

I water, sprinkle, spray and pray . . . and talk to each plant every day . . . so that when I hear we'll have a show . . . I can greet my violets and go, go, go . . . pack the boxes, load the car . . . wish I didn't have to drive so far.

AFRICAN VIOLETS

© copyright 1977 by Perry Harrington

African violets . . . A joy to behold . . . Waiting, watching . . . For each bloom to unfold . . . African violets . . . I look at them and see . . . The presence of God . . . Standing next to me . . . African violets . . . Oh what beauty . . . To teach others about them . . . We feel is our duty.



Jungle Jewel

Hybridized and Grown
 "TEXAS STYLE" by
 Jodi Davis
 Austin, Texas

RASPBERRY SWIRL by Dattalo, Groves, Texas

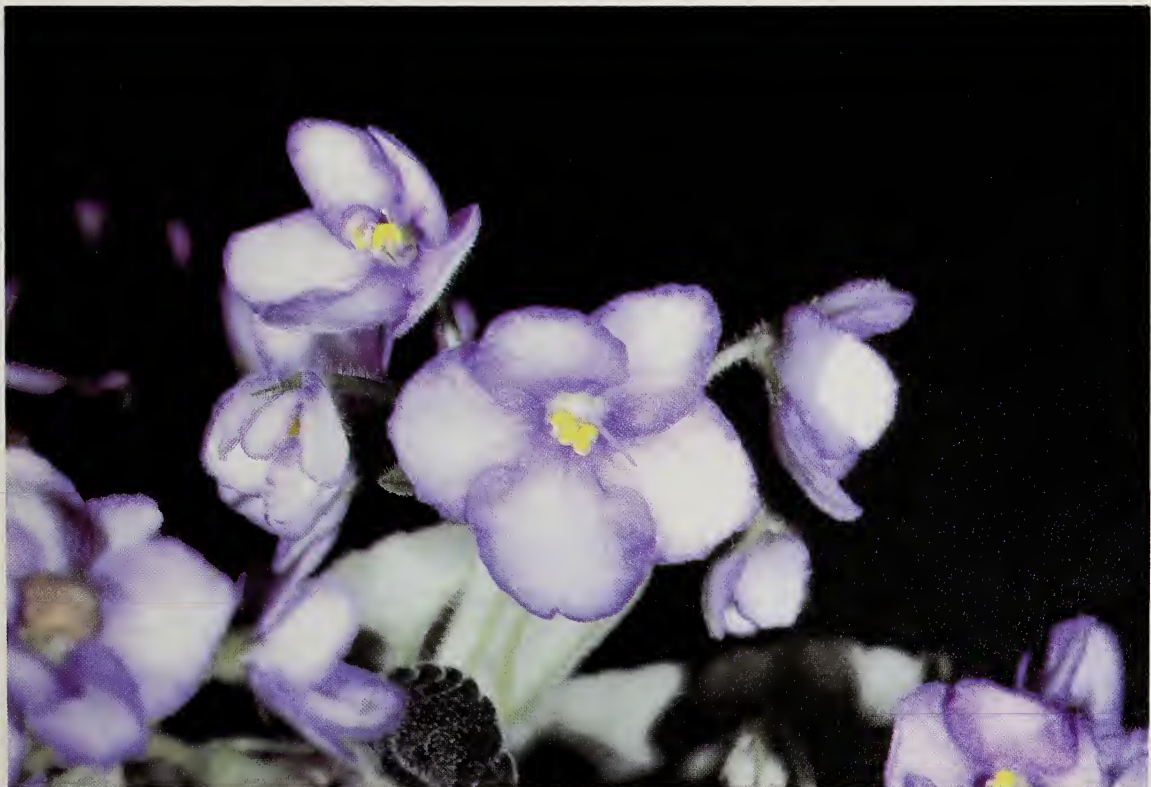




Tippy Crest

RONN NADEAU

The Chemist



BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND

Mrs. L. F. Lidiak
4503 Sinclair
Austin, TX 78756

'Tis June — the AVSA Convention and the spring affiliate shows have been all planned, staged, judged, enjoyed, and are now history. Many affiliates take a two or three month hiatus, so perhaps this is a good time for all of us to look over the past year and see just where we are "coming from."

Many of you have shared a little of your affiliate news with me in your letters of transmittal . . . making my year more enjoyable. It is always nice to hear what the other fellow is doing, so it is my pleasure to say "thank you", for your generosity in behalf of the Boyce Edens Research Fund as well as your sharing of ideas.

Contributions made from November 27, 1977 to February 26, 1978:

Frances C. King in lieu of speaker's fee from LaMesa (CA) Garden Club.....	\$ 15.00
Union County (NJ) Chapter AVSA, in memory of Mrs. Arita Lawrence.....	5.00
Santa Clara Valley (CA) AVC, Christmas donation.....	25.00
Windsor (CT) AVS in memory of Evelyn Varick.....	5.00
Union County (NJ) Chapter AVSA.....	10.00
Anne and Frank Tinari in memory of Blair Capriotti.....	10.00
Balboa Park (CA) AVSA in memory of Andrew Guessner.....	5.00
The Fort Worth (TX) AVS.....	10.00
Metropolitan (IL) AVS.....	5.00
Waukesha (WI) Violeteers.....	25.00
AVS of Denver (CO) Chapter #1.....	5.00
First Austin (TX) AVS in memory of William Friessen.....	5.00
Edward M. Blair in memory of Millie Blair.....	100.00
San Mateo County (CA) AVS.....	15.00
First Austin (TX) AVS in memory of Olive Breck.....	5.00
Austin (TX) friends of Fred Young in memory of Mildred Young.....	17.50
First AVS of Dallas (TX).....	10.00
Marilyn Boldt and Ella Kiesling in memory of Adeline Barta.....	5.00
AVS of Alexandria, (LA).....	5.00
Ventura County (CA) AVS.....	15.00
Metropolitan AVS, Washington, (DC).....	10.00

AVS of Staten Island, (NY).....	10.00
Ark-Mo Town and Country AVC (AR and MO).....	10.00
"Happiness Is" AVS, Longmont, (CO).....	8.00
Santa Cruz (CA) AVS in memory of Millie Blair.....	10.00
Baton Rouge (LA) AVS.....	10.00
First Nighter AVS, Dallas (TX).....	5.00
Dr. Ernest H. Wilson Plant Study Club, Peoria, (IL) in lieu of speakers' fees to Maude Teater and Pat Barber.....	10.00
AVS of the Bahamas.....	10.00
Dixie Moonbeam Chapter AVS, Panama City, (FL).....	10.00
Miss Marjorie Edsten in lieu of judges expenses for Upper Pinellas (FL) AVS show.....	10.00
Night Magic AVS, Tallahassee (FL).....	5.00
The AVC of Trenton, (NJ).....	5.00
Albuquerque (NM) AVC.....	10.00
Mrs. H. Nicholas Hansen in memory of Blair Capriotti.....	25.00
Green Thumb AVC, Fayetteville (AR).....	5.00
Lincoln (NE) AVS in memory of Elma Elm..	10.00
AVS of Philadelphia (PA) in memory of Blair Capriotti.....	10.00
Brown County (TX) Heart O' Texas AVS...	5.00

AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Mrs. Lucile Plaster, Chairman
8304 Suffolk Dr.
Shreveport, LA 71106

It was good to see so many of you in Austin at the AVSA Convention. You will note that each year our club grows and our show improves. It is the cooperation of all the divisions of AVSA that brings this about. Because of your interest and your financial support the BOOSTER FUND is growing, but it takes all of us working together to make such an outstanding success. We thank all of you for your contributions in the past and hope you will continue to help. And a special thanks to the AUSTIN SOCIETY for your hospitality and the hard work and effort you put forth for our pleasure.

Contributions for Nov. 1, 1977 to Feb. 18, 1978.	
Metropolitan AVS, Peoria, IL.....	\$ 5.00
Union County Chapter AVSA, Maplewood, NJ.....	10.00
First New Orleans AVS, New Orleans, LA...	15.00
Los Angeles AVS, Los Angeles, CA.....	10.00
San Mateo County AVS, San Mateo, CA...	10.00

AVS of Staten Island, NY.....	10.00
Ventura County AVS, Ventura, CA.....	15.00
"Happiness Is" AVS, Longmont, CO.....	8.00
AVS of the Bahamas, Nassau, Bahamas.....	10.00
Night Magic AVS, Tallahassee, FL.....	5.00
Granada Hills AVS, Arleta, CA - In memory of Mrs. Shirley Hermann.....	5.00
AVC of Trenton, NJ.....	5.00
Green Thumb AVC, Fayetteville, AR.....	10.00

In the future send your contributions to Mrs. Arthur F. (Mary) Boland, 6415 Wilcox, Alexandria, VA

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Brents Cadden, a member of the AV Study Club of Birmingham, AL, died Nov. 23, 1977 following a fall, a severe stroke and pneumonia. A charter member of the AV Study Club, Mrs. Cadden will be missed by many outside the club as well as club members. She was a longtime AVSA and DAVS member and also was affiliated with other garden clubs. She was a great lover of flowers.

LEGGY PLANTS

Plants that grow long 'leggy' petioles are usually reaching for more light - or it's possible that it's too much nitrogen, and/or too wet.

Clinic is Held

Nearly 50 African violet growers from Central Texas attended the ABC's Club's "Grow a Better African Violet", clinic in Brownwood, saw an AVSA slide program, "The African Violet", asked questions and received answers, then viewed the display showing them "How to Propagate Violets", "10 Steps to Growing a Better Violet", "AV Pests and Diseases", "Pesticides and Fungicides", and an educational exhibit.

ABC's president, Mrs. Jan MacDonald, demonstrated how to correctly pot African violets by several methods; how to divide multiple plants (crowns); scraping necky plants, detecting pests and diseases and how to properly treat the plant; mixing soils and the purpose of the ingredients used in the mixes; and how to properly groom a plant. Show plants were brought by Mrs. Gwen Hawk, Judy Fragua, Mrs. MacDonald to be displayed. Mrs. Sue Hopewell, Pixie Clark, Kathie White, and Ruth Funderburg were at the different displays to answer questions. Printed material was given to the growers. Door prizes of items pertaining to growing African violets were awarded.

A TRIBUTE TO SAMMYE BALLARD

By Dr. Horace Nelson
Troy, AL

An often-heard adage in African violet circles is "African violet people are the nicest people". This adage was really demonstrated in Mrs. Sammie Ballard. The world really lost one of the nicest persons when she died on January 26 at her Montgomery home.

As I think of Sammie Ballard certain words flood in on me:

Words like **influence**. I thought of the influence she has asserted in my life and in the lives of so many—influence as a teacher about African violets.

Words like **knowledge**. As mentioned above, Sammie possessed much knowledge of plants of all kinds and she shared this knowledge in such a self-effecting way.

Words like **appreciation of beauty**. One had only to visit in Sammie's lovely home to see so much evidence of her appreciation of beauty. Her violets were always beautiful beyond comparison . . .

Words like **patience and endurance**. These words were exemplified in her very life, itself. She was always willing to keep going—oftentimes, when I am sure, the going was rough.

Words like **generosity**. One never went to see Sammie but that you came out with several leaves of her newer and better violets. Recently I went through my violet room and saw so many plants that will always be a memorial to Sammie, since she gave them to me as plants or leaves—plants like, 'Pink Swan', 'Ballad of Happiness', 'Snow Ballad', 'Something Else', 'Avalon Blue' and so many others.

Words like **love of people**. My wife, who sometimes feels that she is a member of "African Violet Wives Anonymous", expressed it so well when she said, "Mrs. Ballard noticed me—she made me feel important." Sammie loved people and made them feel important. She made you feel she knew that you were there.

VIOLET BEAUTIES

by Kathy Karparis

Blues and pink and whites galore . . . the splendor of their beauty e'er more . . . behind the tinted greenhouse door . . . rippled and quilted and even a girl . . . can be seen with a graceful whirl . . . tiny buds that soon unfurl . . . matching the beauty—that of a pearl . . . violet, oh, violet, your beauty behold . . . dainty and frilly but never bold . . . admired and purchased wherever sold . . . may your life story ever be told.



ANNE'S FAVORITE

by Tinari

(Photos by Frank A. Tinari, Jr.)

BLUE MASCARA

by Tinari



AVSA LIBRARY

REGULATIONS FOR USE OF AVSA LIBRARY MATERIAL

REQUEST FOR RESERVATION

Send to AVSA Library, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, TN 37901. Reservations will be scheduled and confirmed by this office.

Slide programs and packets are available for use by AVSA members in good standing subject to Library regulations.

SLIDE PROGRAMS

1. Make checks payable to AVSA. A \$3.00 fee is payable with request for slide programs for individual members and AVSA Affiliate Organizations. Fee to non-members is \$5.00.

2. Make request for reservation three (3) months in advance of date desired for use with the following information:

Name and address of person to whom slides will be mailed. If slides will be shown to an affiliate organization please include the name of the organization.

State exact date when material will be used.

Substitutions for requested program may be necessary. Give second and third choice of date for specific program request. Give second and third choice of programs desired for preferred date.

Only one (1) slide program may be reserved for a meeting. Special requests will be filled when possible. When two or more programs are requested, such requests will be filled **ONLY** if there are no other requests for the program on the same date. Affiliate Organizations requests will receive priority over individual members requests in case of a duplication because more people will benefit from the use of the program.

3. Slide programs must be returned immediately after specified meeting date in order to meet schedules for others. Please make sure all slides are in numerical order, that your slide tray and/or projector are completely empty and that the commentary and comment sheet is included. Please carefully repack the box for mailing.

4. Library material must be returned

postpaid to the AVSA office by first class mail. (Return postage will be the same as when posted by Knoxville).

PACKETS

1. Program packets (written material helpful in preparing programs) are available to individual AVSA members.

2. Yearbook Collection Packets are available only to AVSA Affiliate Organizations in good standing. Yearbook Packets A, B, & C, each contain approximately fourteen books representing all sections of the country.

3. Requests for two or more packets will be filled unless there is a duplicate request for the same packet.

4. Packets are loaned for a period of one month.

5. Enclose the \$2.00 fee with request to AVSA Library, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, TN 37901.

6. Library material must be returned postpaid to the AVSA office by first class mail. (Return postage will be same as when posted by Knoxville.).

SLIDE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

"A PORTRAIT OF VARIEGATED FOLIAGE" (75 slides) A look at one of the newer facets of violet growing—variegated foliage plants. Instructions on growing and a detailed description of plants in this category.

"AFRICAN VIOLETS IN ARTISTIC DESIGNS" (60 slides) A collection of arrangements and artistic plantings using a Madonna or other accessory to enhance the design or help express the mood or theme of a class. Most slides are blue ribbon winners from shows.

"BEAUTY IS . . . THE AFRICAN VIOLET" (75 slides) Know the violet from its historical background, family, cousins, leaf patterns, blossom color, and uses in arrangements. An educational ap-

proach to the hobby.

"DESIGN FOR DOING" (62 slides) The most elementary fundamentals of arranging are featured in this program. It is especially designed for the beginner who wishes to learn to do arrangements for her own pleasure.

"FACETS OF VIOLET GROWING" (64 slides) A program presenting cultural information, pointers in potting, methods of detecting insects, including specimen African violet show plants.

"GATEWAY TO VIOLETS" (80 slides) New introductions 1977. Always a first from St. Louis. These are the new ones from the hybridizers at the St. Louis Convention, the Gateway City.

"GESNERIADS ON REVIEW" (72 slides) A collection of gesneriads slides from commercial displays and prize winning plants at shows. Many of the slides were taken at the American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Convention shows.

"GROWING AND GROOMING A SHOW PLANT" (82 slides) A how-to-do-it program starting with the selection of the best leaf for propagation, showing the development and culture of a plant all the way to packing and OFF TO THE SHOW.

"KNOW YOUR FLOWER POWER" (36 slides) Testing your knowledge of African violets can be fun with this program. Everyone will enjoy these brain teasers with their multiple choice answers.

"LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF VIOLETS" (80 slides) From the cradle of liberty come the new patriots of the violet world. The new commercial introductions at the Boston convention.

"MULTIPLYING SAINTPAULIAS" (65 slides) This program covers propagation by leaf cutting, division, seeds, and grafting. Slides show how to produce and plant seeds to the development of a small potted plant.

"OUR AMERICAN HERITAGE" (80 slides) Our 1976 Bicentennial Show and Southern Hospitality at its best, are recorded in this slide program.

"POINTERS ON JUDGING" (60 slides) A workshop program for exhibitors and judges on judging specimen plants.

"SHOW OFF YOUR VIOLETS" (70 slides) A program showing many ways of using violets for home decoration, party favors, and table arrangements.

"STAR SPANGLED VIOLETS" (69 slides) From STAR Blossoms and all other shapes and shades, come our new commercial introductions, bursting with vigor and appeal the bicentennial year, 1976.

"TENDER LOVING CARE FOR MINIATURES" (70 slides) It is fun to work with plants that thrive on TLC. These slides will show you how to groom, grow, and show miniatures.

"THE AFRICAN VIOLET PLANT" (77 slides) Learn to identify the variety of leaf types of the violet, the diseases that affect the leaf, and the blossom colors and types with this program.

"THE GENUS SAINTPAULIA" (62 slides) A program of Saintpaulia species from Mrs. Glen Hudson's collection and species exhibited at shows. The program includes African violets from the first registrations to the newer varieties showing the advancements in hybridization.

"THE MOD MINIATURES" (76 slides) The second program in a series on miniature African violets. You will enjoy seeing some "oldies" and some "mods" and this should help you bridge the generation gap in miniatures.

"THE PRIDE OF PENNSYLVANIA - TINARI'S GREENHOUSES" (69 slides) Presents an outstanding view of African violets grown commercially. Featured are Tinari's introductions old and new.

"THE TREND IS MINIATURE" (78 slides) A wealth of information on growing, hybridizing and identifying the miniature and semiminature.

"THIRD TIME AROUND" (80 slides) Enjoy the beauty of the best in the show from St. Louis' third big convention - 1977.

"VIOLETS AND MORE VIOLETS" (79 slides) A basic lesson for beginners showing how to set leaves, separate baby leaves from the mother leaf and divide a multiple crown plant. Also includes suggestions on potting, repotting a large plant and ways to treat a necky plant.

"VIOLETS AT THE ALAMO" Enjoy the new introductions from our hybridizers and growers as shown at the 1978 Austin Convention.

"VIOLETS BY LAND AND BY SEA" (80 slides) Our beacons of beauty from the AVSA Convention show in Boston 1975. A review of the highlights of that convention.

"VIOLETS DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS" Big was beautiful at the Austin AVSA Convention show. The slides of the convention and top prize winners should be an inspiration to every violet fancier or lover.

"VIOLETS IN THE NUTMEG STATE" (75 slides) Violets galore marked this show in Connecticut, 1974. You will enjoy seeing this program.

"VIOLET TROUBLES" (63 slides) Pests, diseases and results of poor culture are discussed here. An old but good basic program.

"VIOLETS AND SPICE AND EVERYTHING NICE" (70 slides) Connecticut, known for its nutmeg spice, was the state in which these new varieties were introduced. From many hybridizers - their newest.

"WICK WATERING" (63 slides) Pointers on growing wick watered African violets demonstrating wicks and reservoirs which are commercially available and adaptations of common household materials or 'throw aways'.

OTHER MATERIAL AVAILABLE

BY LAWS PACKET: Rene Edmundson, the AVSA Parliamentarian, has presented a simple set of bylaws

to be used as a guide in writing bylaws for new clubs or updating outmoded constitutions.

INSTALLATION PACKETS: There are two packets with Installation ceremonies. Each packet contains different suggested installation ceremonies which can be adapted for a Violet Club. Two new ones are made just for Violet Clubs.

PROGRAM PLANNING PACKET: Suggestions to help a Program Committee plan the programs for a year of club activity.

SHOW SCHEDULES PACKET: Show schedules from 1976 and 1977 African violet shows from different sections of the country. Updated each year. Excellent for new ideas.

SOIL RECIPES AND HINTS ON GROWING PACKET: This packet contains a selection of soil recipes from AVSA members in different parts of the country. Also included are helpful hints in growing the violet.

YEARBOOK COLLECTION PACKETS: These packets contain approximately 14 or more yearbooks each. Each packet contains one of the top prize winners at the last AVSA Convention competition. New each year.

Violets in the Bathtub!

Lela Steenburgen, 4214 Spann, Indianapolis, In 46203

I have always thrown myself body and soul into a hobby and always have a hobby going. My family says if there was a "do-it-yourself" kit on do-it-yourself I would be doing it. In fact, at times my hobbies get completely out of hand.

At one time I had tanks and tanks of guppies and little ladies all over the place giving birth to their young. One day, after finding little mothers and babies in unbelievable places, my mother said she would not be surprised to find them in the bathtub. And one day, because of aquarium problems, she did!

Then came the fancy goldfish stage of my adventures into hobbying. I built stands for 20-gallon tanks and had fish everywhere. I just had to have one of each kind, maybe even a pair. This finally boiled down to one 20-gallon tank with a half dozen nice fish as I found this a very, very expensive hobby and after checking my finances, I decided rather than go bankrupt I preferred one tank.

But lo and behold one day ALONG CAME AFRICAN VIOLETS! As usual, off I went into the

wild blue yonder over these lovely plants and believe me if they could be grown in the bathtub, it would be full. I had them on windowsills, window shelves, any spot the sun could reach until finally I ran completely out of space for pots and pots of violets.

Then Zing! Like a bolt out of the blue an idea struck me . . . a fluorescent cart. Well, I read ads and checked prices, then I had to check the old bank book again. As usual my hobby money was just about nil. So I put the old thinking hat on and made a trip to my local lumber yard for 2 x 4's, nails and other supplies. After much sawing and hammering I had a cart of sorts with lights. It looks rather rugged but fits my kitchen decor which is early hodge podge.

Violet lovers, if you've run out of space, with just a little elbow grease and some ingenuity, you can have a nice lighted space for your darlings at an affordable price. I have thoroughly enjoyed my adventure into the violet world and my lovely ones have a nice comfortable place to grow and bloom. I have hours of enjoyment watching them.

No violets in my bathtub now!

REGISTRATION REPORT



Adele Tretter
4988 Schollmeyer
St. Louis, MO 63109

(Due to an oversight, the Registered Varieties Nos. 3068 through Nos. 3184 were not included in the March 1978 Registration List. For these varieties, check the Registration reports in the 1977 June, September and November magazines. Sorry about these errors).

The following registrations have been received during the period from December 1, 1977 through March 1, 1978.

BETTY ROSEREA (3252) PX 39 sc L 12/5/77
HAPPY HARLEQUIN (3253) PRC 29 s L 12/5/77
PLAIN JANE (3254) D-PRC 29 d L 12/5/77
TAFFY PULL (3255) D-PW-E 389 df L 12/5/77
Mrs. C. Hawley, 2432 Nottingham Rd., Columbus, OH 43221

BALLET ABBY (3256) WVC 3 s&df S 12/5/77
BALLET DOLLY (3257) VXW 3 s-d S 12/5/77
BALLET RACHEL (3258) VW-E 3 s-df S 12/5/77
BALLET VERA (3259) VW-E 3 s&df S 12/5/77
Geo. J. Ball Inc., P. O. Box 335, West Chicago, IL 60185

BLUE AND YOU (3260) D-BPC 279 d L 12/15/77
BURNABY BLUE (3261) D-BWS-E 257 d S 12/15/77

CUTUP (3262) WPC 35 sc L 12/15/77
DELTA DREAMER (3263) P 2 d S 12/15/77
DOROTHY'S DREAM (3264) L-PG-E 359 sf S 12/15/77

HEARTSTRINGS (3265) PX 2 s S 12/15/77
HOMESPUN (3266) WB-E 35 df S 12/15/77
JAMESPORT (3267)WB-E 345 d S 12/15/77
LANGLEY LACE (3268) M-BW-E 37 d S 12/15/77
McKENZIE TRAIL (3269) D-RX 9 s S 12/15/77
MOONSTONE (3270) L-B 2 d S 12/15/77
MOONSTRUCK (3271) M-B 2 D S 12/15/77
MOTIVATION (3272) RX 2 s S 12/15/77
MUMBO JUMBO (3273) RWC 2 d S 12/15/77
NIGHTINGALE (3274) OX 2 s S 12/15/77
OBSESSION (3275) M-B 7 d S 12/15/77
PEACH TREAT (3276) P 26 d L 12/15/77
PENTICTON PINK (3277) P 2 s S 12/15/77
PINK PATTY (3278) L-PBC 79 d S 12/15/77
POTPOURRI (3279) L-PBC 7 s-d S 12/15/77
SORCERY (3280) WB-E 3578 sf L 12/15/77
VANCOUVER DEBUT (3281) PX 25 d L 12/15/77
Simpson's AV, 6715 Randolph Ave., Burnaby BC Canada V5H 3W3

GOVERNOR PRYOR (3282) D-B df L 12/17/77
The House of Violets, 936-940 Garland St., SW Camden, AR 71701

ANNE'S FAVORITE (3283) D-PX 38 s-df S 12/30/77
BLUE MASCARA (3284) L-BW-E 3 d S 12/30/77
Tinari GH. 2325 Valley Rd., Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

DENVER JO (3285) M-PX 239 s-d S 1/5/78
DENVER DELIGHT (3286) D-P 23 s-d S 1/5/78
Mrs. P. W. Kiesling, 475 Madison St., Denver, CO 80206

FOUNTAIN REVERIE (3287) WO-E 59 s L 1/7/78
Mrs. C. S. Hawley, 2432 Nottingham Rd., Columbus, OH 43221

ABRACADABRA (3288) OV 45 s-dc S 1/18/78
BAKER'S DIPPITY DOO (3289) WPG-E 5 df S 1/18/78

BAKER'S FIESTA (3290) D-R 2 dc S 1/18/78
BAKER'S HOT LIPS (3291) WR-E 35 s-df S 1/18/78

BAKER'S PERPPERMINT PATTY (3292) WD-P-E 7 s-d S 1/18/78

BLUE LUSTER (3293) WL-B-E 2 s-d S 1/18/78
BURNING EMBER (3294) RX 38 s-dc S 1/18/78
DEVIL (3295) RX 2 s-dc S 1/18/78

FARRAH (3296) L-PX 2 dc S 1/18/78
JEALOUS PINK (3297) D-PG-E 5 s-df S 1/18/78
LUCILLE (3298) R 2 s-dc S 1/18/78

TEENY WEENY (3299) OV 29 s M 1/18/78
WINKLE (3300) WD-B-E 3 s-df S 1/18/78
Donald A. Baker, 2433 Kingscliff Dr., NE, Atlanta GA 30365

THE MUSICIAN'S BLUES (3301) L-BX 3 s S 1/21/78
Larry E. Collins, 1333 Riverside, Waco, TX 76706

BLUE STAR LOU (3302) L-B 27 sc LT 1/23/78
 MATTIE LOU (3303) D-P 57 dfc L 1/23/78
 PINK STAR LOU (3304) M-P 27 sc LT 1/23/78
 VOLARE (3305) WO 239 s-d L 1/23/78
 Rienhardt's AV, 4463 Seneca Tpk., Syracuse, NY
 13215

FLOWER TIME (3306) D-O 37 d L 1/26/78
 PLUM BEAUTY (3307) RX 37 d S 1/26/78
 House of Violets, 936-940 Garland St., SW
 Camden, AR 71701

OH MY (3308) P 35 s S-M 1/28/78
 PINK WINK (3309) P 25 sf S-M 1/28/78
 WHAT FUN (3310) P 2 d S-M 1/28/78
 Deborah Good, 5735 Roswell Rd., NE, Atlanta,
 GA

AFTERNOON DELIGHT (3311) OX 23 s S 2/3/78
 BABE (3312) O-P 29 s-d M 2/3/78
 BIG RED (3313) R 29 s-d S 2/3/78
 BLUE (3314) B 1 sc L 2/3/78
 DOUBLE DELIGHT (3315) R-V 239 d S 2/3/78
 JIMMY CARTER (3316) R 3 s-d L 2/3/78
 LAVENDER STEEL (3317) D-OX 2 s-d S 2/3/78
 LINDA SMALL (3318) OX 28 sf S 2/3/78
 MARSTEEL (3319) WR 23 s-d S 2/3/78
 MIZZOU LOU (3320) OX 27 s S 2/3/78
 MORNING DELIGHT (3321) L-P 2 s-d S 2/3/78
 ONE-FOURTEEN (3322) BW 2 d S 2/3/78
 PINK EMERGENCY (3323) P 23 s-d S 2/3/78
 PINK MORNSTAR (3324) L-P 2 s-c S 2/3/78
 ROSALYNN CARTER (3325) OX sc S 2/3/78
 SNOOKY (3326) D-BW 2 s S-M 2/3/78
 STARLOVER (3327) WO 2 sc S 2/3/78
 TIPPY CREST (3328) WV 2 s S-M 2/34/78
 WEE DREAMER (3329) P 2 9 d M 2/3/78
 Ronn Nadeau, 48 Queensbrook, St. Louis, MO
 63132

FRONT PAGE (3330) OX 239 s-dc S 2/6/78
 Mrs. P. W. Kiesling, 475 Madison St., Denver, CO
 80206

LITTLE JOAN (3331) P 27 Sc M 2/11/787
 Isla Montgomery, 921 Garfield, Denver, CO 80206

VAL'S SILVER LIGHT (3332) WLC 157 f S-M
 2/15/78
 Gertrude M. Pesson, 1214 Common, Lake
 Charles, LA 70601

EVLO AFTERGLOW (3333) D-P 5 s-d&s S
 2/17/787
 DIVERTIMENTO (3334) RW 5 df S 2/17/78
 JANET (3335) L-O 23 d S 2/17/78
 LOVEABLE (3336) D-P 23 d S 2/17/78

WINE DROPS (3337) R 2 s M 2/17/78
 SILVER MINK (3338) WB 5 s-df S 2/17/78
 E & L Hammond 3917 Copeland Lane, Fremont,
 CA 94538

LITTLE TOM (3339) P 27 s M 2/18/78
 Isla Montgomery, 921 Garfield, Denver, CO
 80206

RESERVATIONS

The following reservations have been received
 during the same period as above.

VERY BLUEBERRY * TIZ PINK * SARA LOU *
 PRETTY LADY * OUACHITA QUEEN * MRS. IKE
 * MAIS OUI * DO SI DO * CAMARK
 Reserved by House of Violets, 1/5/78

THE FONG * ROYAL SALARDIO * WINTRY
 BLAST * YOU ARE SOMETHING * ROYAL AVA *
 DUSTY SILVER * BOLD AND CUTE *
 TANASTAR * DIAMOND BELLE * ROSE SATAN
 * LITTLE LOVIN' * STAR TOSSED * BIG GRAND
 * SING LONG * I SAY I SAY * WINAPPEAL *
 DANDY SCAMP * SURF DANCER * WIN JOY *
 SUMMER HILL STAR * MISTY SAILOR
 Reserved by Marian Magee, 4244 Alabama Ave.,
 Kenner, LA 70062 12/12/77

DENA * DARREN D * MA MA D * TOMGIRL *
 OL BUDDY * INDIAN FEATHERS * MARIE'S
 DOLL BABY * BOYAN BABY * MARIE'S PRETTY
 LADY * POWDER BLUE * SWEET AMY * MARIE'S
 RASPBERRY SWIRL
 Reserved by Marie Dattalo, 3900 39th St., Groves,
 TX 77619 1/13/78

MISTLETOE 'N HOLLY * MISS SCARLETT
 Reserved by Ed Stretch Smith, 4136 Flora, St. Louis,
 MO 63110 1/30/78

THINK PINK * MIGHTY GOOD * GOODIE *
 GOOD THINKING * GOOD GUESS * GREAT-
 GRANDPA * GREAT IMAGINATION * STARLET
 * LITTLE TILLY * NUGGET Reserved by Deborah J.
 Good, 5735 Roswell Rd., NE, HE-4, Atlanta, GA
 30342 1/14/78

TIGER * CORAL CANYON * DAYO * SNOW
 ORCHID * GRAND FINALE * PISTACHIO *
 REGALIA * ROCKETTE * DIMITY DOLL *
 WATERMELON ROSE Reserved by Irene Fredette,
 972 Grassy Hill Rd., Orange, CT 06477 2/13/78

FRANKIE * NOELINE * MARY FRANCIS * REA
SUE Reserved by Ethel Cruise, 1752 Gray St.,
Oroville, CA 95965 1/31/78

SYMPHONY ATLANTA * SYMPHONY SAN
FRANCISCO * SYMPHONY DALLAS * SYM-
PHONY NEW ORLEANS * SYMPHONY SAVAN-
NAH * SYMPHONY HONOLULU * SYMPHONY
JUNEAU Reserved by Irene Fredette, 972 Grassy Hill
Rd., Orange, CT 06477 2/13/78

ADVENTURES IN PARADISE * HAWAIIAN
MENEHUNE * TU TU CANE' * HAWAIIAN TU TU
* PLUMERIA LEI * HAWAIIAN WINDJAMMER *
HAWAIIAN PACIFIC PARADISE * HAWAIIAN
TORCH FLOWER * HAWAIIAN BLACK SANDS *
HAWAIIAN LOVE SONG * HAWAIIAN ROYAL-
TABOO * BOLD ADVENTURER * HAWAIIAN
QUITE VILLAGE * POLYNESIAN JOURNEY *
HAWAIIAN GODDESS PELE * HAWAIIAN FERN
FOREST * HAWAIIAN GINGER-BLOSSOM *
HAWAIIAN ROYALTY * HAWAIIAN THE ALII *
HAWAIIAN MAHALO * SISTER ANTONILLA *
SISTER HYACINTH * SISTER ANNA MARIE *
SISTER ANSELMA * SISTER HELEN FRANCES
Reserved by Francis Williams, 1480 So. Jersey
Way, Denver CO 80224 2/1/78

CANCELLATIONS

ZSA ZSA * EMERAUDE * KATHRYN ANN *
BRAVURA * FREEDOM BELLE * GEM DANDY *
SCARLET O'HARA * OZARK BEAUTY * HI-
NOON * BLUETIFUL

CORRECTIONS

PEGGY'S BUSTOVER should have read PEGGY'S
RUSTOVER (3189) SUPERFECTION should be
changed to pink. GENESSEE SILHOUETTE has been
credited to Tinari's as hybridizer. Change this to
Manelta Lanigan as hybridizer. LUCY MAYNARD
was listed as LUCKY MAYNARD. Please make this
LUCY MAYNARD.

NOTICE

Any letters requiring an answer to their questions
must have a return stamped envelope for their
answer. NO envelope — No answer.

Please check the top of registration list also top of
Master Variety List. It says list name or registrant on
the registration and name of hybridizer on the MVL.

(NOTE TO REGISTRANTS: The Editor would
like to use color slides of your newly registered

violets in the Magazine. Use only light back-
grounds. Dark slides cannot be reproduced. Send
original color slides to Editor with name of plant
and name of hybridizer.)

AVSA Sweepstakes Winners Listed

Three silver bowls and three rosettes were award-
ed to AVSA members who have won the most blue
ribbons in specimen classesx in shows sponsored by
AVSA Affiliates during the past year. Presentation of
the awards were made at the Austin, TX Conven-
tion.

Receiving the silver bowls were: Mrs. Jessie
Crisafulli of Belchertown, MA, with 147 blue; Ray-
mond Dooley of Staten Island, NY, with 76 blue and
Edward Bradford of Woodhaven, NY, with 53 blue.
Receiving the rosettes were: Barbara Elkin of San
Jose, CA, with 39 blue; Mrs. Franklin B. McLaughlin
of Springfield, PA with 37 blue plus red ribbons and
Mrs. Jayne Fall of Wichita Falls, TX with 37 blue plus
red ribbons.

Two silver bowls and two rosettes were awarded
to AVSA members who have won the most blue rib-
bons in design classes in shows sponsored by Af-
filiates during the past year. They were presented at
the Austin, TX Convention.

Receiving the silver bowls were: Edward Bradford
of Woodhaven, NY with 40 blue and Mrs. Carlos B.
Rios of Springfield, PA with 8 blue ribbons. Receiv-
ing the rosettes were: Mrs. John Kreska of Dallas, TX
with 7 blue and Mrs. Alvin Whitfield of Dallas, TX
with 6 blue, 2 red and 1 white ribbon.

DON'T REUSE SOIL

Don't ever reuse soil you've removed from your
African violets. That's false economy. Soil removed
from the violet's root when repotting should be
discarded. By reusing such soil you run the risk of in-
fecting other plants with soil-borne pests.

KEEP ON LOOKOUT

This is the time of year we need to keep a sharp
lookout for any insect infestation. Windows and
doors are open in many homes. Most gardeners are
in and out, bringing in cut material. It is inevitable
that some "unwanted" guest may make his ap-
pearance. Prevention is much better than cure.

Affiliate 'appenings

(NOTE TO PUBLICITY CHAIRMEN: Please, when sending typed articles concerning your shows, send the original copy to the EDITOR — not a carbon copy or copy-machined material.

Also PLEASE follow style used in following articles — then these do not have to be re-written for the Magazine.)

THE NASA AREA AVS was pleased to have Howard Utz of San Antonio as its guest speaker. The club members enjoyed dinner with the speaker, who entertained them with stories of his experiences with African violets. At the meeting, he spoke on hybridization, giving tips on the qualities to look for in the parent plants to get desired results, on the care of the seed pods, and on the care of new seedlings. He then hybridized several plants which were brought by and will be cared for by the club members. He also encouraged newcomers to the world of African violets to try hybridizing

THE UPPER PINELLAS AVS of Largo, FL held its 19th annual show, "Love of Violets", with Mrs. Marie Williams show chairman and Mrs. Elizabeth Zane club president. The winners were: Mrs. Cheryl Atkins, best miniature arrangement, special award for educational table, "Other Gesneriads"; Mrs. Romi Batt, best heart theme arrangement; Mrs. Alice Bell, best in novice class, 'Blue Boy'; Mrs. Katherine Bird, best blooming Espiscia, 'Pink Brocade Sport'; Mrs. Irene Bratton, best dish garden; Mrs. Madelyn Handlong, best miniature, 'Silver Bells'; Mrs. Lorraine Hartley, best non-blooming Espiscia, 'Pink Brocade', best miniature trailer, 'Trail Along'; Mrs. Ernestine Infinger, best in show, 'R. Claudia', first runnerup, 'R. Mars', AVSA Gold Rosette, 'Ballet Lisa', 'Sister Ancilla', 'Delft Imperial', sweepstakes award with 23 blue ribbons, best plant under 12", 'R. Barbara', best terrarium, best club project, 'Stepping Out', special award for educational table, "African Violets"; Mrs. Mary Lantz, best standard trailer, 'Violet Trail'; Mrs. Judy Stone, tricolor award for best artistic arrangement, 'Enchanted Forest'; Mrs. Alvina Suder, AVSA Purple Rosette, 'Forever White', 'Snow Ballet', 'Emperor'; Mrs. Marie Williams, best unusual container, special award for focal point, "Love of Violets"; Mrs. Alice Yawger, second runnerup to best in show, 'Like Wow', best semiminature, 'Little Jim'.

Sponsored by the FIRST NEW ORLEANS AVS and the NEW ORLEANS AVS, a holiday boutique was so successful that plans are being made to have another one this fall. The proceeds made from the boutique are to be used in preparing for the 1980 AVSA Convention to be held in New Orleans. Items offered to shoppers were gingerbread houses, creche scenes made from dough, needlepoint and crocheted gifts, ornaments, gardening aprons, photographic prints of Louisiana's scenery, two-part cookbooks, African violets, delectable edibles and many other handmade gifts.

Despite a tremendous downpour of rain, members of all but a few distant northern California societies attended SAN FRANCISCO AVS' 25th anniversary luncheon at the Hall of Flowers in Golden Gate Park, and helped the San Francisco Society celebrate. The founder of the society and first president was honored, also all other presidents to date. Among some of the past presidents, whose pictures were taken, were Mrs. Esther Ottolini 1964-65; Mrs. Ellen Schloffel 1963-63; Betty Ward 1960-61; Edith V. Peterson 1956-57, and AVSA president 1974-76; Mrs. Evelyn Nienstadet, founder and president 1953-54; Louis B. Ambler, 1978 president; Frances McMahon 1966-67; Anna Bidgood 1970-71; Muriel Warwick 1972-73; Lupe Stevenson 1974-75 and Mary Michniuk 1976-77. Judy Ann Downing, luncheon chairman, also made beautiful hand painted wooden key rings with dainty three violet blossoms in different tones and green foliage on a white painted background. Souvenir booklets relating the 25 year history of the San Francisco society were also given to all.

At its 30th anniversary tea, the AVC OF GREENVILLE, SC honored its first president and charter member, Mrs. Claude Russell. Mrs. Russell has been an active member in the club all these years as well as helping to organize 24 garden clubs in the Greenville area. Mrs. C. L. Zees, the club president, presented Mrs. E. H. Price with a certificate of appreciation and an honorary membership in the club. Mrs. Price joined the club in 1960 and has held all major offices, including the presidency for a total of five years. At the time of the tea Mrs. Price was serving as first vice president of the Dixie AVS.

The FIRST AVS OF KINGSVILLE, TX held its second annual judged show, "A Midwinter Dream", with a 100% participation. Show chairman was Mrs. LaVern Barden. Winners were: Queen of Show, 'Sea Lark', Mrs. J. C. Crawford; best mini, 'Little Jim', design sweepstakes, Tri-color rosette, (best in artistic plantings), best in arrangements, Janet Cooper; best gesneriad, espiscia, 'Cleopatra', Mrs. Ray Aycock; horticultural sweepstakes, Mrs. Mildred Gidden; Tri-color rosette, 2nd best in horticulture, Lavern Barden.



GRAND CHAMPION—Here's Patricia Steinborn of Cape Girardeau, MO with her African violet, 'B Marta', which won the Grand Champion purple rosette for most outstanding exhibit in the Department of Floriculture at the Southeast Missouri District Fair. Exhibits were viewed by more than 64,000 persons during the five-day event.

African Violet Society of America, Inc.

ORGANIZED NOVEMBER 8, 1946 — INCORPORATED JUNE 30, 1947

"To stimulate a widespread interest in the propagation and culture of African violets everywhere"

The Board of Directors is composed of the elected officers, the directors,
the immediate past president and the chairmen of standing committees.

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Mr. Edward Bradford
85-25 86th Street, Woodhaven, NY 11421
Miss Edith V. Peterson
1545 Green Street, San Francisco, CA 94123
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RESEARCH

Mr. Frank Tinari, Chairman
2325 Valley Rd., Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
Mr. Hugh Eyerdorn
R. D. 2 Box 289, Medina, OH 44256
Mr. Lyndon Lyon
14 Mutchler St., Dolgeville, NY 13329
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STAFF

EDITOR

Mrs. Henry P. (Grace) Foote
211 Allien Pl., Port Arthur, TX 77640

PUBLISHER

Mr. Gus Becker
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President Citation Awards are Made

AVSA Certificates of Appreciation for outstanding articles in the *African Violet Magazine* were awarded to the following:

Mrs. H. N. Hansen, our AVSA Secretary, from Jenkintown, PA, for her two-part article "Preparing Plants for Show" which appeared in the September and November 1977 magazines.

Entomologist Dr. Charles L. Cole of the Texas Agrticultural Extension Service, College Station, TX, for his report "Insect Facts" in the March 1978 issue.

Mrs. D. J. Lidiak, Austin, TX, Convention Vice-chairman, for her photographs and articles "A Fading Beauty Candidate for Cosmetic Surgery" published in the January 1978 magazine.

Commercial member Dale Eyerdom, Granger Gardens, Medina, OH, for his two-part review in the September and November 1977 issues, "Demand Increasing for Flowering Houseplants".

Mrs. Frances Young, Austin, TX, our Convention Show Chairman, for her photographs and report on "Handy Helpers in Horticulture" published in the March 1978 magazine.

And a very special thanks to Anne Tinari, Huntingdon Valley, PA, who is retiring after serving as Question Box Editor for 19 years. During that time she answered more than one thousand questions in the column since she wrote her first column for the March 1959 issue.

Something Different - - -But It Worked!

*Edith Horn
Danbury, WI*

My sister is a windowsill gardener of African violets and was running out of space for her plants. One violet was so stubborn about blooming that she was going to discard it. Thinking to give it a chance, she put the plant outdoors in a flower bed on the north side of the house, under some overhanging eaves. The violet was taken out of the pot and planted in the ground. If the rain was not sufficient to keep the flower bed moist, the bed was watered.

When frost threatened in the fall, my sister found the violet full of buds. She potted it, brought it in the house, gave it a little extra humidity by placing the violet in a saucer of damp peat moss. The plant bloomed beautifully and was covered with flowers.

Perhaps other violet growers would like to try this method with some of their surplus violets.

SPRING SHOW

by Olive Z. Snowden

If winter comes, can spring be far behind? . . . with blooming violets on my mind . . . of pink and purple, red and white . . . I feed and water and give them light . . . hopefully I groom and grow . . . blue ribbon plants for spring's big show!



A Foote on the Violet Path

By Grace Foote

"The king is dead — long live the king!" When I was a child I often wondered what that meant. Now I know with some of my dearest friends giving up their duties as regular columnists for the Magazine and others taking over these volunteer assignments. Since the St. Louis convention I knew **Anne Tinari** was relinquishing her "Question Box" post. It nearly broke my heart for **Anne** was so gracious to help me out when I became the magazine editor — and was I an African violet greenhorn!! No amount of talking or cajoling or threatening did any good, for, as she said, "the time has come," and I did understand just how much time she devoted to compiling the "Question Box" and how voluminous her mail has been over all these years. Her dedication to AVSA has truly been magnificent! . . . After much persuasion (and I'm sure a little arm-twisting) **Catherine Hawley** has consented to assume **Anne's** chores. **Catherine** says she's much too inexperienced to take over the task of a pro like **Anne**, but she'd try. And that's all any of us can do is try! . . . Then there's **Lucile Plaster**, who has done such a tremendous job with the AVSA Booster Fund. She's another gal for whom we should all stand up and cheer. But she, too, feels she must turn over this post to someone else. **Mary Boland** will be **Lucile's** successor, so if you have any extra money you'd like to contribute to the Booster Fund, just send it to **Mary** and it'll help carry on some additional AVSA projects not included in the budget. . . And as you know ill health caused **Madeline Gonzales** to resign as Honor Roll and Best Varieties Compiler. This assignment has been taken over by **Irene Fiedler**. . . Now after many, many years as convention time and place chairman **Dora Baker** has decided to call it quits. She's the one who submits invitation to host a convention to the AVSA Board, visits the hotels in the convention city, selects the one suitable for AVSA, makes hotel arrangements and works with a preconvention advisory committee. 'Tain't no easy job, but one that **Dora's** handled with much expertise and skillful competence. And now it'll be up to **Jimmy Watson** to fill **Dora's** shoes. . . Taking over **Jimmy's** place as chairman of Commercial Sales and Exhibits will be **Lloyd Lyn McArthur**. . . Our retiring president, **Melva Nelson** is going to be in charge of the new revised Handbook for Judges and Exhibitors, copyright for which was turned over to AVSA by **Ruth Carey**, who originated and copyrighted it nearly 30 years ago after the rules, scales of points, and show procedures for AVSA convention shows and in qualify-

ing judges was adopted at the annual AVSA meeting on May 13, 1950 and **Mrs. Carey** was granted permission to use the material in her Handbook. . . **Mildred Schroeder** still puzzled about how her picture of **Granger's 'Sierra Rose'**, which appeared on the January 1977 cover of the African Violet Magazine, got printed in another magazine without permission from her or the AVM editor — as **Mildred** says, "Y'know two pictures couldn't be EXACTLY alike!" And y'know, too, the AVM has a copyright on everything in it. . . At least, one person thinks an awful lot about violets. Appearing in the LOST column of a Florida newspaper recently was the following ad: "African violet missing from office bldg. vic. First Avenue, S. Sentimental value. \$50 reward. 347-4481." . . Just learned about Home Grow, Inc., having a mini-hydroponic indoor garden, which can be placed on a window sill where the grower can learn about plants, gardening and hydroponics. As y'know hydroponics is the method of growing plants in nutrient solutions rather than in soil, and giving the plants the proper balance of lifegiving minerals. . . Our advertisers wishing you readers would be sure and enclose your money when sending for lists of their products - - - and also, very important, your complete address as well as your name. Y'know it's absolutely impossible for them to send you a list if nowhere in your letter or on the envelope is your address. (I know how easily this can happen!) . . Now comes word that the soilless mixes that have come into wide use in recent years may be in for a big change — the addition of soil — for a nurserymen's magazine notes that "some soil is now considered necessary in most mixes to help hold moisture and nutrients and to prevent too rapid drainage." We learned that an experiment station reports that many growers are using 10% to 20% soil in their container mixes. . . Now come two requests for help. **JoAnn Hagemeier**, 1147 Jefferies Drive, Clinton, IA 52732, would like to find '**Ruffled Queen**'. That was the first violet she ever had. She lost it last year to crown rot. . . And **Madeline M. Sonder**, 5802 R Street, Omaha, NE 68117 is trying to find **Frank Burton's 'Dar Devil', 'Ablaze' and 'Moonview'**. If you have such plants or know where they may be obtained, how about dropping either of these growers a card? . . And there's another favor some of you can do: **Ecy Forcht**, president of the Texas Lone Star AV Council, lost everything in her greenhouse when the heater failed to function last January. Her largest loss was her African violet

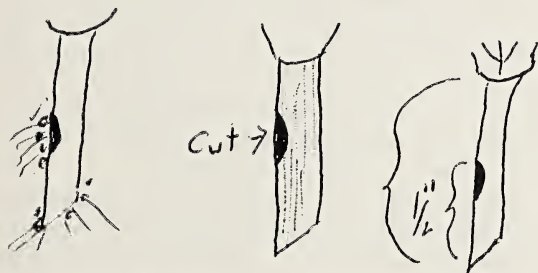
species collection she spent so much time in collecting. So if you can help her rebuild her collection, then let her know. Her address is 833 McKinney, Arlington, TX 76012.

More Plantlets From the Same Leaf?

*Dr. Alvin W. Shultz
4121 West 83 St.
Prairie Village, KS 66208*

Have you ever thought of obtaining more plantlets from one of your prized leaves? If you have, you might be interested in an experiment that I accidentally stumbled across. Perhaps others may have tried it, but since it was new to me, I thought I would pass it on for what it was worth.

In checking one of my leaves that I was rooting in water, I noticed some roots were appearing about one half inch above the cut end. Upon closer examination with a magnifying glass, I found a break in the tissue and out of this break the roots were forming.



Deciding to see if anything would happen, I left the leaf in water. After about four weeks, I noticed tiny green spots were not only forming at the slant cut but also were forming around the secondary cut. After waiting to make sure there were plantlets and not spots of algae, the leaf was placed in vermiculite to see what would happen.

Desiring to continue on with the experiment, I took six young healthy leaves from the same plant (it had lost its name) and cut as follows. The stem was cut at 1½ inches in length and the end cut on a slant. About ½ inch above the slant, another cut was made. The cut was rather a small cupped out area which only removed the outer skin and being careful not to cut too deep into the center of the stem.

The leaves were placed in water with the level above the second cut. In about five weeks the roots had developed and tiny green dots were appearing

around both cuts. Waiting a few more weeks (this was to make sure they were plantlets) the leaves were put in vermiculite.

Now I will have to wait many months for the plantlets to develop and surface and grow enough to be counted. If the results turn out as I hope it will, will write up a following article.

ATTENTION!! PUBLICITY CHAIRMEN

The Magazine needs your cooperation if we are going to get your show news in "Coming Events". On the inside of the cover page, there is a whole page devoted to "Strictly Business—Your Business" and under Magazine the deadlines for each issue are listed.

Many, many times I have overlooked your tardiness in getting these "Coming Events" in on time — but we can't publish a Magazine on time when you send in a "Coming Event" for the March magazine on January 15. The deadline for the March magazine is Dec. 1—and your notice arrives a month or 6 weeks late. If it were just one notice, it could be handled—but when 10 or more come in late, that is impossible!

Elberts Receive Silver Medal

The Silver Medal of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society for the year 1977;., awarded by vote of the Board of Trustees, was presented to Virginie F. and George A. Elbert for outstanding contributions to the literature of horticulture, The Indoor Light Gardening Book, The Miracle Houseplants-The Gesneriad Family, and other books on the culture of house plants.

The presentation took place in the library of Horticultural Hall at an awards luncheon for the trustees and officers. Dr. George H. Pride of the Arnold Arboretum read the citation and Mrs. John C. Storey, president of the Society, made the presentation.

VARIEGATED PLANTS

Plants with foliage having a combination of two or more of the following colors are described as "variegated": white, light green, rose, red, wine, copper, pink, cream, chartreuse, and dark green. Reserve the term "variegated" for foliage only, not for blossoms.

Drying Flowers In A Microwave Oven

Grace Rymer
1755 Ocoee Street, N.W.
Cleveland, TN 37311

A new miracle in the floral design world has come about with the use of microwave ovens. A microwave unit in your kitchen enables you to instantly dry flowers. This can save four weeks of ordinary drying time and produces fresher and more colorful materials for use in floral designs.

Preparation for microwave drying requires a supportive substance for flowers that wilt. This drying agent absorbs moisture so the flower can dry in its natural form.

I have found three drying agents to be most effective. First is Silica-Gel, available in most hobby shops. Second, an equal mixture of borax and corn meal can be used. A third agent which is inexpensive and easiest to use is "kitty litter". I recommend the Hartz brand. It has great absorbing quality and is made of ground clay. For smoother surfaces, such as an orchid or daisy, Silica-Gel is most satisfactory. All of these agents can be used over and over again.

Containers for drying can be any size and made of glass or paper. Dessert or cereal size bowls, shoe boxes and cardboard platters work fine.

Drying Flowers

Here is a step-by-step procedure for drying:

1. Select fresh flowers or leaves you wish to preserve.
2. Select containers deep enough so the drying agent covers the entire bloom.
3. Place a 1/2 inch layer of the drying agent in container. Clip stem of flower about 1/2 inch long. Then place flowers in agent, face up. With a spoon, sprinkle granules of the agent gently between petals of flowers, making certain every petal is covered and not bent out of shape.
4. After flowers are carefully covered by agent, slip dish into the microwave oven. Also place a cup of water inside the oven to provide moisture. Set timer for about 1-3 minutes, depending upon the particular flower. (Later on I'll explain how to estimate proper oven drying time.)
5. After flowers have been "cooked", remove from oven and leave in agent for at least 36 hours. When removing material from agent, gently tap the flower until all granules are removed.
6. One of the most important problems is storage of these beautiful blooms. I have found that plastic shoe and garment boxes work fine. Place a thin section of styrofoam in the base of the boxes—then place flower head in position into styrofoam with a

long corsage pin. Small bank pins are sufficient for smaller flowers. These transparent boxes can then be stacked away until needed.

7. Stem sections can be added to the flowers when needed in design, by using a florist wire 18" long, gauge #20. Floral tape the entire length, forming a loop on one end, then use a quick drying glue. Spread glue lightly over the circle and place flower into position. Cut the wires according to the length needed in your arrangement.

8. Occasionally after the flowers dry they become brittle and may shatter when placed in the design. I have found a practical way to avoid this by using a humidifier. Wave the flower through the steam until it then becomes pliable. After you place the flowers in the arrangement they will again become dry and retain the desired form.

Flowers dried in this manner are not as dry and perishable as flowers dried the old way. They feel and look more like fresh flowers.

Like everything else worth doing at all, drying flowers must be done properly to get the best results. All flowers should be picked just as they are reaching their prime, when they have already started to turn brown, flowers will continue the browning process. Nothing will successfully prevent this. Correct timing, therefore, is the first requisite.

When drying roses, use Silica-Gel. Carefully cover with the agent—sprinkle between each petal until completely submerged. Place in oven for 2 1/2 minutes. Let these stand in the agent overnight. One or several roses can be dried at once—using the same timing.

When drying miniature roses and smaller flowers such as pansies, approximately 1 1/2 minutes baking time is all that is necessary, with about 10 hours set-up time. Daisies, small dahlias, black-eyed susans, zinnias, marigolds, carnations, and small type chrysanthemums again use 1 1/2 minutes—with about 10 hours cooling off period. Large dahlias, peonies, Chinese peonies, large chrysanthemums, bake approximately for 3 minutes—and let stand in drying agent for about 36 hours.

Orchids should be baked in Silica-Gel for approximately 1 1/2-2 1/2 minutes—with set-up time of 24 hours.

Leaves can be microwaved dry, particularly the beautiful ones of interesting color and texture that are available in the fall. Foliage can form the major

part of winter arrangements, with just a few flowers used in the focal area.

To dry foliage, place a shallow box lid or platter in the bottom of the oven, next place a section of paper towel over the box, then start layering your leaves with paper towels. Use as many clean leaves as will easily go into the oven. Turn the microwave oven to 1½ minutes. When the bell rings turn leaves and towels completely over and repeat the process, giving a total of three minutes exposure. Remove branches when the leaves are dry and beautiful. No set-up time is needed—they are ready for placement in your design.

Magnolia branches and leaves, ferns of all types, camellia foliage—all may be dried by the same method and timing.

I think it is wonderful to discover a new use for the microwave oven, and at the same time a new means of speeding up the process of the ever popular dried flowers. Dried arrangements by this new method are as colorful as fresh flowers and, needless to say, the results are beautiful.

(Reprint by permission from *American Horticulturist*, Vol. 56, No. 5, Fall 1977)

Encouragement From An AV Beginner

*By Mrs. Sam (Elaine) Burks
5500 Holmes Run Parkway
Alexandria, VA 22304*

As a relative newcomer to the exciting world of African violet cultivation, I have learned many lessons that I feel bear passing on to others who love the beautiful Saintpaulia but simply can't get them to grow.

For several years I tried — with total lack of success — to get my African violets of all types to flourish. I say flourish because they were growing, but looked as if each day might be their last. Then I made a decision: If I wanted ever again to see the kinds of blooms the plants had when I first brought them home, I would have to begin to study their care, cultivation, and perhaps eventually, their reproduction.

My first step was to contact an African violet expert in our area, and to her I owe much of my acquired African violet expertise. Having done this, I realized that there was much more for me to learn, so I purchased several books dealing with the species that had been recommended to me.

One of my first realizations was that my lighting

for the plants was atrocious and that whatever growth I had gotten from the lovely violets I purchased had to have been based on pure luck. I subsequently acquired two fluorescent light setups, equipped with the proper growth fixtures. Under them I placed my darker leaved and darker blossomed varieties in the center of the lights and lighter varieties toward the ends. I soon learned the value of cleanliness, and dusted the light fixtures twice a week to assure a constant light intensity. I also now use an inexpensive timer to give the plants a steady 12 hours of fluorescent light daily.

My second "revelation" about the care of my now precious African violets was the importance of consistent watering and fertilizing. Too many times I had been dismayed to see a beautiful plant die from rot caused by overwatering, or almost shrivel up when I became afraid to water enough. The solution was very simple: wick watering. Now all my plants are wicked and are also fed a constant solution of one fourth strength Peters Special fertilizer. Plants that had not bloomed since they had been purchased are now covered with flowers and leaves are well-formed and a good color.

As it is with human beings, I became aware of the importance of what I call African violet hygiene. I am careful now to go over each plant on an every-other-day basis, removing dead blossoms, checking for insects or disease and removing any leaves that are not doing well. Each month, I regularly check my violets to see which need trimming, trying to contribute as best I can to their general good looks by encouraging symmetrical growth. In addition, each month I wash and sterilize the containers in which the water stands for wicking, thus removing any algae buildup.

Although my violet population still does not rival, I am sure, many AVSA members in numbers, I truly believe that it can in quality of plants and blooms. My standard sized plants, which are kept on one plant stand and my minis and semiminiatures, which are on another, are all doing well. The small monetary investment in good supplies and materials — and the equally large — and perhaps more important — emotional investment I have made in my African violets have assured me of an interesting and beautiful hobby for many years to come.

USE YOUR BLENDER

Styrofoam cups, meat trays, etc. can be recycled for use as drainage in terrariums and containers with no drainage holes. Break into small pieces and put through blender with water to obtain desired size. If ground small enough, the foam can be used in place of perlite.



VIOLET CART—Here's a three-tier violet cart, complete with trays and lights, purchased by Paul W. Combs of Dallas, TX and refinished with a redwood frame to harmonize with the furnishings in their enclosed redwood patio which they call their garden room.

Patio Enclosed For Garden Room

Paul and Dorothy Combs of 5907 Del Roy Drive in Dallas, TX are both new to the world of growing African violets and their many cousins but they're mighty interested in them.

About two years ago they had their patio enclosed, using redwood with aluminum doors and windows. The exterior was stained with conventional redwood stain but the interior was finished in natural color redwood using clear sealer and primer followed by two coats of polyurethan. "The natural color is really outstanding," Mr. Combs said.

"We furnished the room to serve as a garden room in the summer but with the advent of winter it became a greenhouse as well," he continued.

"I bought a used three-tier steel violet cart, complete with trays and lights. This was completely worked over and refinished in pale yellow enamel. Even this did not get away from the sterile hospital look of the cart.

"I had received a picture of a redwood covered cart from one of the suppliers and with this as a guide and a little thought, I covered the cart with 1x4" redwood, creating a fourth tier. The top was developed

with egg crate construction with the ends of the boards overhanging the cart. The top light fixture is recessed into the top.

"The redwood was finished the same as the room trim and fits in very well.

"As a suggestion to others, do not buy clear heart redwood as it is too expensive. Buy a low grade and get some white sap in the wood which finishes very nice.

"We also covered a white wrought iron and glass table top with 1x4" redwood. As the table is full of plants, watering and cleaning up is much easier."

Happiness Is - - - Doing Good

For the past two years Sonya Swift, 63 Sparkhill Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10304 has been visiting a local nursing home and attempting to bring a little cheer and activity into lives of the residents.

Sonya is a teacher. Once a week she goes to the nursing home and meets with the residents who are interested in plants. The meeting is held in the recreation room — and there they pot African violets, discuss them and have a drawing for a plant Sonya brings.

"The time passes all too quickly", she says. "Some have to leave at 4:30 for dinner. Then I make 'rounds' to see those who couldn't get down. Usually, I leave about 5:45.

"Once a year we have an excursion — where else, but to a local African violet show!"

Sonya would like to hear from others engaged in the same sort of activity. She went on to explain:

"I'm wondering all the time about more interesting programming, tips on how to help window sill violets survive air conditioning, frosty drafts, and roasting sun! Some do — isn't it a wonder?

"We had about 15 plants entered in the non-members class of our local show last year. Sadly, some plants that manage to flourish didn't manage to get shown — things that are nice are prey to disappearances in institutions."

ISOLATE NEW PLANTS

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" so when you get a new plant don't immediately place it in with other African violets you may have had for some time. Place all new plants in isolation or quarantine for a period of four weeks while you carefully observe them for any signs of insect or disease which might not have been readily noticed when you first received the plant.

Mesdames Lidiak, Diver, Crisafulli Take Top Honor Awards at AVSA 1978 Show

Never before in the history of AVSA have there been so many African violet blossoms on display as were seen at the Austin AVSA Convention/Show. There may have been more plants entered, but never have there been more blossom plants.

The judges are to be commended on a job well done, even though you and I might have selected some other plant for a certain award. But the plants were all so beautiful, it was a difficult decision to make.

Three of the highest winners were Mrs. L. F. Lidiak of Austin, Mrs. E. Diver of Leander, TX and Mrs. J. Crisafulli of Belchertown, MA.

Mrs. Lidiak captured 17 of the awards and made off with the handsome FloraCart, contributed by Home Growers Products of Cleveland, OH, for three different registered varieties, 'Becky', 'The King' and 'Corpus Christi'. She also received the Stim-U-Plant Lab's \$50 and plaque for 'Pink Philly', a best registered variety. She also received the AVSA First Collection Award, a gold rosette, for the same three varieties. Silver awards also went to Mrs. Lidiak for her 'Pink Philly', from the Saintpaulia Society of St. Louis, the AVS of Greater Atlanta's award for 'Pink Philly'; the ABC's African Violet award, a hand-painted container for 'Manelta's Fanfare', and the following cash awards for 'Sandra' from Sandra Leary, Corpus Christi AVS for 'Corpus Christi', First AVS of San Antonio's award for 'Hondo' the Hubert Hughes' award for 'Granger's Blue Fashionaire', The Evening Violeteers AVS award for 'Hondo', the Mary S. Garrity Award for 'Jason', The Lidiak Award for 'Superfection', The Catherine Hawley Award for 'Superfection' the Alamo AVS Award for the best artistic planting, and the Sandra M. Lex award for the best design.

Mrs. W. Diver of Leander took home 15 handsome awards — some cash — some silver. The AVSA second best collection award, the purple rosette, won for Mrs. W. Diver with her 'Granger's Blue Regent', 'Fashionaire' and 'Sandpiper'. She was also winner of two AVSA awards, the Merit Rosette and \$12 cash for 'Sandpiper', and the Honorable Mention Rosette and \$10 in cash for 'Becky'. She also captured the Stim-U-Plant Lab award of \$25 and plaque with 'Tina' and the Nature Island Grow Light Stand (the purple rosette) with 'Granger's Blue Regent', 'Fashionaire' and 'Sandpiper'. Mrs. Diver also won the Granger Garden's Award of \$50 for her 'Millie Blair', and the Granger Gardens' Award of \$50 for 'Fashionaire'.

Mrs. Diver's other winners included the Stim-U-Plant \$25; and plaque with 'Grand Duke'; the Rocky Mountain AV Council Award with 'Becky'; The AVS of Staten Island Award with 'Mrs. Greg',; the Helen Belle Hughes award with 'Wisteria'; the San Francisco AVS award for 'Starshine'; the AV Study Club of Houston award with 'Starshine'; the Helene Hubbard Award with 'Millie Blair' and the Indianapolis AVC Award with 'Winsome Spring'.

Mrs. J. Crisafulli of Belchertown, MA was winner of 10 awards even though she had to bring her plants a great distance to the show. 'Dora Baker' took two cash prizes, the Wichita Falls and the Mrs. Harold Baker awards. Mrs. Crisafulli's 'Midget Flame' also received two awards, Mrs. Wayne Schroeder's award and the North Shore AVS of Long Island trophy. The First AVS of Wichita Falls also presented Mrs. Crisafulli with a cash award for 'Bergen's Strawberry Sherbert'.

The Jeanne Newman Award for 'Tiny Pink' fell to Mrs. Crisafulli, who also won Mrs. Lester Fladt's award with 'Blue Sprite', the Tallahassee AV Award with 'Sinningia Concionna' and the Celine Chase Award for the "Texas Heritage" entry.

This was Marie Dattalo's first time to enter an AVSA convention and she came home with four awards. These included the Helen Van Zele cash award with 'Little Rascal', the Mrs. Mary V. Booze award for "Winter Grape" the St. Louis Judges' Council award for the best miniature, "Little Rascal" and the First Austin AVS award with 'Mary Lou'. Mrs. Dattalo is from Port Arthur, TX.

Adele Townsend of Georgetown also walked away with four prizes. They were for "Treasure in Texas" from the NASA Area AVS; 'Richter's Wedgewood' from the Indianapolis AVC Award; 'Six Pack' for Mrs. J.A.W. Richardson Award; and 'Millie Blair' from the Southern CA Council of AV Societies.

Linda Ray of College Station also was winner of four awards. She took the Mildred Hughes Award with 'Pink Pillow' the First AVS of Wichita Falls Award for 'Snoopy', the First Austin AVS Award for 'Dolly Dimples' and the Mr. and Mrs. Glenn B. Hudson award for 'S. Pendula'.

Penny Brenner of New Orleans was an AVSA grower who walked away with four awards. For her 'Helene' she received the Lyndon Lyon cash award of \$25; the Joan Van Zele cash award for the second best specimen plant, 'Helene'; for Mr. and Mrs. Pat Dudley and Charles Ramsey award for 'Beginner's Luck' and for Mr. and Mrs. Mickey Ray award for

Beginner's Luck'.

Betty Brant of Tomball, TX won three trophies for her designs. She won the First Austin AVS award for the best entry, "Big Bend"; the Celine Chase award for second best entry, "King Ranch" and the AVC of Greenville, SC award for 2nd best entry, "Wild Life".

C. Russell of Houston took two awards for Frank Burton's 'Dardevil'. One was Helen Van Zele's cash award the other was an antique silver bowl from Mr. and Mrs. Frank Burton. He also won the Los Angeles AVS cash award for 'Rocky Trail'.

Mrs. W. F. Anderson's cash prize for "Texas Heritage" fell to Dorothy Wilkins of Austin, who also won the ASTRO AVC award for the 2nd best entry in "Treasure in Texas" and the AVS of Lower Bucks County Renton Milk glass, "Violets in the Snow."

Two gesneriad awards went to Barbara Nichols of Arlington, who entered 'Gesneria Curcifolia' to win the Houston Gesneriad Society Award, and 'Sinningia Pink Imp' to win the Wisconsin Council award. Ms. Nichols also won the Barbara Cevera award with 'Ballet Marta' and the First Arlington AVS cash award for 'Arlingtonaire'.

M. A. Schneider's two entries "Tex-Mex" and "Tower Lights" both won awards. Schneider is from Brownsville, TX and won the Milwaukee AVS cash award for the best entry, "Tex-Mex" and the Edd Stretch Smith award for "Tower Lights."

The Helen Van Zele Award for the 2nd best entry, "Tower Nights" fell to Mrs. Carlos Rios of Springfield, PA who also received the Edward Bradford's award for second best entry, "Highland Fling".

Virginia Raby of Austin won two gesneriad awards for 'Episcia Cleopatra'. The Mrs. Percy Crane award, the other Mr. and Mrs. Glenn B. Hudson award.

P. Monroe of Garland took the Top Choice AVS award with 'Flamingo' and Mrs. W. A. Fowler award with "Starborne".

Mrs. Jean McDonald of Brownwood won two entries in design, the Twilight AVS cash award for "Texas Coastline" and the Alamo AVS' second best entry "Remember the Alamo."

Two design entries, "Highland Lakes" and "If It's Texas Weather", were won by Ray Lange of Corpus Christi, TX. "Highland Lakes" award was made by the Violet Harmony Club and the other award was by the Heart of Texas AVS.

Norita Hallum of Brownwood received the Alamo AVS cash award for the best design, "Remember the Alamo" and also the Eward Bradford cash award for the second best entry of "Deep in the Heart of Texas."

The Union County Chapter of AVSA award for the best entry, "King's Ranch" was captured by Flo

Brogdon of Houston, who also won the Helen Van Zele cash award for second best entry "Country Music."

Jeannine Achauer of Milwaukee, MN received the First Nighter cash award for the best entry, "Country Music", and also the Astro AVC's cash award for the 2nd best entry, "If It's Texas Weather, It's Unpredictable."

Single award winners were as follows: Cindy Bodiford of Panama City, FL, Reinhardt's AV awards, 'Top Dollar', Jodi Davis of Austin, North Texas AV Judges Council, for best entry, "Deep in the Heart of Texas"; Bea Davis of Denton, Bluff City AVC Award, 'Bambino', Sandra Dudley of Wichita Falls, AVS of Greater New York award, "Land of Milk and Honey"; Celia Dazet of Buras, LA, the Indianapolis AVC award, 'Barr's Blue Bird'; D. Crumbley of College Station, Mrs. John McCoy silver, 'Tiny Pink Bells'; Cindy Chatelain of Nederland, TX, Mrs. Percy F. Crane award, 'Columnea Early Bird'; Elaine Click of Houston, TX, the Rocky Potters award, 'Crown of Gold'; N. Chilcutt of Fort Worth, TX the Mrs. Marvin Garner award, 'Icicle Trinket'; Leartrice Farac of Sulphur, LA, the Wisconsin Council of AV Clubs award, 'Sinningia White Sprite'; Alma Humman of San Antonio, the Brazos Valley AVC award, 'Barr's Blue Bird'; Gladys Hudnall of Austin, TX, the Glenn Hudson Award, 'S. Velantine'; H. Garner of Austin, the Mrs. J. A. W. Richardson award, 'Ballet Lisa'; Mrs. D. Gubbs of San Marcos, the AVSA Judges Council of Northern California award, 'Blue Boy Improved'; Billie Golla, of Houston, Wm. R. Smithe Memorial award, best entry, "Big Thicket"; Susan Myers of Houston, Ventura County AVS award, 'Blue Boy'; Sarah McCutcheon of Waco, First AVS of Dallas cash award, 'Granger's Festival'; Mrs. R. L. Pritchett of Austin, the Mid-County Saint Paulian award, 'Lucky Thirteen'; N. A. Nelson of Round Rock, TX the Night Shade AVS award, 'The King', Geviene Perkins, the Spring Branch AVC award, 'Geviene'; Mrs. Claude Russell of Houston, AV Study Club of Birmingham award, 'Rusty's Trail'; I. Rudiseal of Brownwood, TX, AVS of Beaumont, 'Mr. Gus'; H. Strand of Northport, NY, Los Angeles AVS award, 'Bonne Juene Fella'; S. Spengler of San Antonio, AV Study Club of Birmingham, 'Irish Angel'; D. Wilson of Bryan, Jimmy Watson award, 'Little Jim'; S. Whitehead of Waco, TX, Stim-U-Plant Lab. award \$25 and plaque, 'Granger's Artic Mist'; Martha Turner of Spring, TX, the Florence Garrity award, 'Pink Flirt'; G. Turner of Spring, TX the Tinari Greenhouse award, copper tray, for "Poodle Top"; Tom Toms of Bossier City, LA, the Helen Van Zele cash award, and Kenny Froboese of Boerne, TX won the Crestwood Violetry silver award with "Dolly Dimples"

Commercials Receive Recognition

'Coral Radiance' Named New AVSA Introduction

Lyndon Lyon of Dolgeville, NY, veteran African violet hybridizer, was the AVSA Commercial Member receiving the introduction award at the Austin Convention/Show.

Lyon's 'Coral Radiance' not only won the new introduction in Class 5 but also received Joan Van Zele's cash award for the best seedling, Class 5A.

Mary Boose of Heavenly Violets of Trumble, CT, captured the Helen Van Zele cash award for the second best seedling, Class 1-A; and also won a special award given by Mrs. Van Zele for the second best seedling, Section 1, Class A. The best seedling was "Geminess". The second best was WB-9. Both were hybridized by Irene Fredette.

The Win Albright Memorial Award was presented the Cape Cod Violetry of Talmouth, MA with three plants: 'Sugar Blues', 'Sandpiper' and 'Moby Dick.' Cape Cod Violetry also won the AVSA gold rosette Collection of three registered different varieties with the same three plants. Cape Cod was also winner of Crestwood's Violetry Award, 'Sugar Blues'.

The AVSA purple rosette fell to Humphreys African Violets of Harrington Park, NJ, for 'Corpus Christi', 'Alouette' and 'Night Magic'. The same plants were also accorded the Winfred Albright Memorial Award for the 2nd best AVSA Collection; Humphreys also received the Mrs. William Krogman cash award for 'Mark'.

The silver bowl for the best commercial display table went to Lyndon Lyon with 158 points.

Two commercial display tables tied for second best commercial tables with 138 points each. They were Swifts' of Dallas and Ronn Nadeau of St. Louis Violet Nurseries.

Reed's House of Violets of Camden, AR, came up with 134 points for third best commercial table. Hortense's African Violets of San Antonio received Mr. and Mrs. Frank Burton Award of antique china for 'Hondo'.

Tinari Greenhouses of Huntingdon Valley, PA received the AVSA Honorable mention for the fourth best commercial table with 123 points and also the Joan Van Zele cash award for the 'Sport of Anne's Favorite'.

Cindy's African Violets of Panama City, FL captured the Jimmy Watson silver award for sweepstakes and also the commercial silver cup to the exhibitor for the best registered variety, 'Annie Mae',

in commercial class 1 and 2; also Rienhardt's Award for best specimen of 'Top Dollar'.

In the Commercial Division there were 13 entries for display tables. These entries were by Swifts', The Violet Shop, Buell's Greenhouses, Lyndon Lyon, Jodi Davis, Tinari Greenhouses, Hortense's African Violets, Ronn Nadeau, Baker's African Violets, Boswell & Barnard, Violets Atlanta, The House of Violets and Susan's Violets.

Horticultural perfection rosettes were awarded Swifts' of Dallas, Ronn Nadeau of St. Louis, MO, and The House of Violets of Camden, AR.

Best new introduction rosettes were awarded Lyndon Lyon of Dolgeville, and Ronn Nadeau of St. Louis.

A total of 333 ribbons and rosettes were awarded in the Commercial Division.

Do NOT send newly elected officers' names to the Editor. Send them to the Affiliate Chairman, Mrs. Wayne Schroeder, who lists them in the November Magazine.

Awards for Affiliates

Awards for the best newsletters of 16 pages or less and to the best magazines were presented as rosettes to the following winners at the Austin AVS Convention/Show.

Best Newsletter - blue rosette, won by Blossoms AVS Newsletter — Pat Hall Editor.

Second best Newsletter - red rosette, won by Oakville AVS Newsletter — Toronto, Canada — Sandra Lex, Editor.

Magazines: Two awards given for the best magazine, more than 16 pages, class 50B.

Best Magazine - blue rosette, won by Empire State Magazine — Mrs. Nelson Hopper, Editor.

Second best Magazine - red rosette, won by Council News — Pauline Bartholomew, Editor and Jackie Davis co-editor.

Yearbook Awards

Four awards for the best yearbook of any AVSA Affiliate organization were made at the Austin AVSA Convention as follows:

First prize, \$15 and rosette, Levittown AVS of Long Island; second prize, \$10 and rosette, First AVS of San Antonio; third prize, \$5 and rosette, Albuquerque AVS; and fourth prize, \$4 and rosette, Aurora Borealis AVS of Alaska.

CHANGES ARE MADE

The AVSA Board of Directors voted at the Austin AVSA convention to discontinue printing of the Bylaws in the September issue; also to omit the "Shows and Judges" information.

However, the list of Teachers and Judges will be continued in the September magazine and shows and judges' and chairmen's report on rules changes and place are to be included in the Revised Judges and Exhibitors Handbook.

IMPORTANT!

Moving? Then please notify the Knoxville office of your new address as quickly as you know what it will be.

If you will do this, your magazine will reach you at the new address and will not be returned to the post office marked "Address Unknown".

Bathing . . . Take Your Violet

Bathing? Take your African violet with you. That's the advice of Janice Everett, who found her plants drooping when she tried to keep her thermostat turned down to 68. So she hit on this idea, which she explains:

"Now, in alternating fashion, I place a plant on the stool next to the bathtub while I take a hot, steamy bath. Or, I put one in my husband's bathroom while he takes a steamy shower. In hardly any time at all, I've noticed my plants look healthier. Oh, yes, before moving the plant from the bathroom, I wait until the room has cooled off of its own accord to keep from shocking it."

PERILS IN PEAT

*Andy and Carol Anderson
9515 Flower Street
Bellflower, CA 90706*

When in doubt — STERILIZE!

A bulletin of the California Association of Nurserymen reports, in part: The peat we've long considered to be sterile really isn't sterile — free of weeds, diseases, and other problems. Chickweed, sorrel, oxalis and other weeds are now common in peat. Plant pathologists have found diseases present in every one of 52 peat samples tested, 36 of which come from other countries. Many were labeled "sterilized", "no fungi" or "weed free". All 52 samples contained fusarium fungus organisms, and 15 were infected with pythium water-mold fungi.

Heat or chemical treatment of peat or peat mixes is recommended. At the Green House, we often have problem plants brought to us for examination. Many times we see the classic crystalline form of fungus infection. Examining the potting media, we find a heavy, acid mix has been used. Sometimes the mix is one of the popular brands. Unless you can be sure you mix is sterile, STERILIZE it!

We have long used Methyl Bromide gas to sterilize our Gro-Mix potting media. This is expensive, and limits our production, because we leave our mix sealed for at least 36 hours, and aerate for 24 hours.

So, when in doubt, STERILIZE!



PRIZE WINNERS—Mrs. Cheryl Koch of Pelham, NH, proudly holds two of her prize winning African violets, which took honors at the Merrimac Valley AVs of Lawrence, MA. She was also sweepstakes winner. At the right is 'Keep-sake' and left is 'Happy Harold.'



GRANGER SELECTIONS

Photos by
Frank Alessandrowitz

Dainty Doll

Lavender Tempest



They Said It Couldn't Be Done . . .

MOVING WITH AFRICAN VIOLETS

*Jancy J. McNicholas
2134 Criston Dr., #2A
Newport News, VA 23602*

They said it couldn't be done, but we did it.

When I received word that my husband's job would require a move from my native Colorado to faraway and alien Virginia, many worrisome thoughts crowded my mind. Not least of these was concern for my collection of African violets. I had about 120 plants, including 92 different varieties. They represented a considerable investment of both time and money, and many plants were Colorado hybrids which would be impossible to replace.

I began to do research. The moving company would not take plants, and advised me in a friendly way that moving plants was a great deal of trouble and usually unsuccessful. The information I found at the library gave encouragement and many useful hints, but concluded with the statement that their methods were intended for a move of up to 400 miles. If moving farther, it advised giving the plants away and starting over in the new location. My last resort, what I thought of as my "ace in the hole", was my local African violet club, the Rocky Potters. Though a few members were encouraging, most advised that I satisfy myself with taking a leaf from each variety and not attempt to transport the plants themselves. Some had moved plants long distances but advised against it when they learned that we were limited by a small car and our cat and four-year-old daughter traveling with us.

While I was discouraged, my husband was not ready to give up so easily. With his constant encouragement, and against all advice, we began to prepare for the 1800 mile cross-country trek with the plants.

Our first step in preparation was to reduce the number of plants to be taken. We eliminated completely 12 varieties that just didn't seem to grow well for us, and decided to take one plant, the smallest we had, of each of the 80 other varieties. Those plants destined to be left behind were sold or given to close friends.

The larger plants, those in three-inch pots or larger, were rolled in paper to hold their leaves upright. This protected them, as well as helping them pack into boxes more compactly. The majority of the plants to be taken were small (planted in Solo cups), and these were set unwrapped into large but shallow cardboard boxes lined with plastic. We then packed

all the boxes with shredded newspaper between the plants and along the sides of the boxes. This kept the plants from moving around and possibly injuring their leaves, and it also acted as insulation to help maintain a more constant temperature around the plants.

With 80 violets and a small columnea I couldn't bear to leave behind, we had five large boxes of plants to be taken. We packed these in the trunk and behind the back seat of the car, being sure to warm the car up first, and we were off.

The trip itself took four days. Moving in late October, the weather was beautiful and the daytime temperatures did not present a problem for the violets. Every night when we stopped, we carried all the boxes into the motel, removed the box lids, and gave each plant a small drink of water with a meat baster we had brought for this purpose. We did not remove the plants from the boxes at all during the trip. The next morning we would warm up the car, load the boxes of plants, and hit the road again.

When we arrived, the plants remained packed in their boxes until we found an apartment and could set up the plant stands and lights. Happily settled in their new home at last, many showed their appreciation by growing more quickly than ever before and sending up lovely new bunches of bloom.

If someday it may happen that my husband's job requires another move, we would not hesitate at all to transport our most treasured violets. Thanks to my husband's unflinching optimism and our shared enthusiasm for our African violets, I sit in a new home in a new state with many violets which are old friends. With such a husband and such lovely plants, I am truly twice blessed.

FLUORESCENT LIGHTS

Are you getting the maximum value from your fluorescent fixtures? Not if you don't keep them clean. This also applies to the reflectors. A damp cloth will do the job. Also bear in mind that simply because a fluorescent light still burns, it does not follow that the plants are receiving much benefit. Replace those old lamps periodically.

Use Spindles To Make Stands

Marie Deschamps
209 Comly Road, Apt. K-21
Lincoln Park, NJ 07035

I've been growing African violets over 30 years, having received my first ones from my children's school teacher. I had a variety of other houseplants at that time and these were just other plants and nothing special. It wasn't long before I had leaves rooting and little plants growing all over the house. Then something happened and they all died. I felt badly but what could I do? A few years went by and African violets were forgotten.

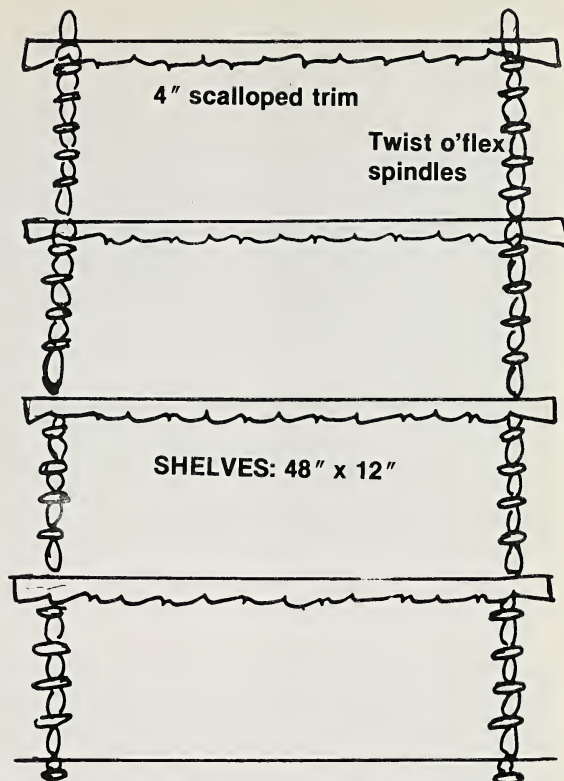
When my three children were in high school I went to work. There I met a woman who had some violets and I bought some. These grew to be giants and never stopped blooming. The only thing I knew to feed them was "Miracle Grow." My husband made me plant stands that stood on top of built-in bookcases in the dining room and above these were two large windows that faced north. The violets loved this location.

In due time I made plans to re-decorate and this is when I ran into trouble. While I papered and painted the dining room, I moved the violets into the living room before three large windows, two facing west and one south. There was plenty of light but the violets were not happy. When they were moved back into the dining room, I thought they would perk up. But they never did and they all died.

I was brokenhearted and my husband felt badly also because he knew how much pleasure these beautiful violets gave me. By now I really had the "violet fever".

One day my husband came home and said he had a "surprise" for me. It was a lovely violet. Of course, I wanted to know where he bought it and did they have more. He then told me there was more to his "surprise" and if I would get my coat he would show me the rest. He took me to the place where he had bought the violet and told me I could pick out 10 more! I was so excited for I had never seen so many violets in all my life. From that time on I have never been without violets. My collection grew and I visited and purchased violets from Lizeta Hamilton, the Tinari's in Pennsylvania, Lyndon Lyon in New York and Fischer's in South Jersey.

My husband made me many plant stands and tables equipped with lights and I filled my home with violets. At one point the count was over 1,000. I sold



PLANT STAND—This stand was built of twist o'flex spindles, which come in different styles and lengths. Drill hole in shelves and with threaded parts one fits into the other. Stain and finish as you desire. The 4" scalloped trim helps to hide thin line light fixtures.

and gave away many of them. I never had any problems with disease. If a violet looked sick, out it went—pot and all.

I've enjoyed every minute I've spent with my violets and they have repaid my tender loving care by blooming and really showing off for me.

The time came after my husband passed away to think about a smaller place to live. Of course, that meant getting rid of many violets. I gave away plant tables and lights and violets by the dozens. I felt like part of me went along with them, but I could take only about 30 violets for I was moving to an apartment.

At about that time they were building a new type of furniture called "twist o'flex" spindles and shelving. With the help of my very dear friends, we put together a unit. I finished the unit with stain and varnish and attached lights. It's really a beautiful piece of furniture.

The violets took some time to adjust to their new home. Besides the violets growing in the unit under lights, I have others growing in a double window, which faces east, northeast, and in my bedroom double window, which faces west.

I have had so much joy and pleasure from growing and caring for such beautiful flowers that our Creator has put here on earth for man's enjoyment.



CHAMPION'S CHAMPS

(Photos by Duane Champion)

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Heavenly Halo



Lovelies

by Lyon



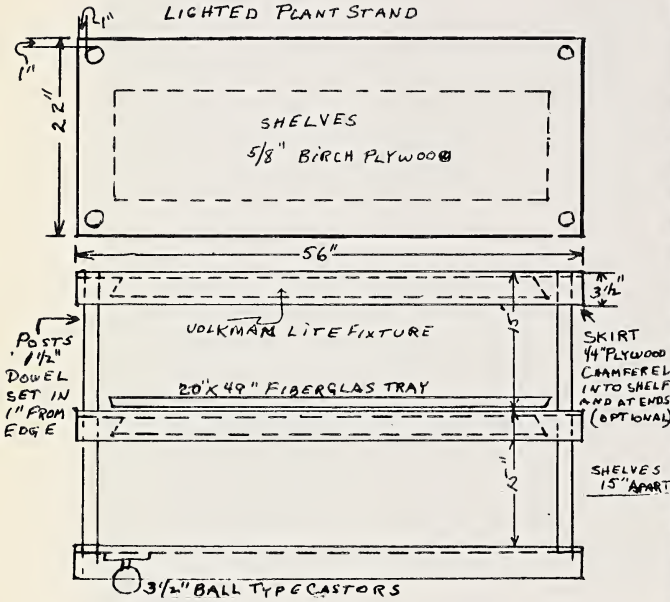
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Stand serves as divider between entryway and living room.



Closeup showing plastic crate support.

Drawing by H. K. Eckert showing construction of lighted plant stand.

We built this stand as a piece of furniture to meet a particular need in our home. The result was very satisfactory. We have a good looking stand, our violets found an exceptional growing and blooming environment, and we have a beautiful display which we and our friends can enjoy all day and evening — from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

The stand is located just inside the front door and serves as a divider between the entryway and living room.

We also have a three-shelf stand in the master bedroom which serves as a growing area where leaves and small plants are started and brought to maturity. They are then transferred to the living room stand. The one in the bedroom is built the same way but does not have the 3 1/2-inch skirts around the shelves, thus the light fixtures are visible from the ends and at the top shelf. It really is not too objectionable.

Fixtures are from Volkmann Bros., Dallas, Texas 75219. These fixtures allow an 11" space between the light tubes, and is 48" long.

Light tubes are Verilux Tru Bloom (see all their ads in the various issues of the *African Violet Magazine*), which provide true color and have a long life.



Second stand in master bedroom used as growing area where leaves and small plants are started and brought to maturity.

We use wick feeding and watering (1/8 tsp. Volkmann Constant Feed Fertilizer to 1 gal. water). The pots are placed on a support made of 1/2" plastic called "egg crate" by electricians. It is normally used to diffuse fluorescent light in ceiling fixtures. we cut 2" squares from these and cement 6 to the bottom — 2 on each end and 2 in the center to provide depth.

Our trays are of fiber glass and measure 20" x 48". The shelves also will accomodate 4 small trays each.

We groom our plants every 2 weeks or whenever they appear to need it, and clean the trays when an unsightly accumulation of algae is evident — we find that a thorough cleaning every 2 or 3 months will suffice. To clean, the trays are taken outside, rinsed with the hose, then filled with water and a generous amount of chlorox. The "egg crate" supports are turned upside down in the tray and all left to soak for 2 to 3 hours, then scrubbed and rinsed thoroughly before wiping dry and returning to stand.

We hope this will inspire someone who loves violets as we do to provide them with optimum environment for growing beautiful plants and a chance to display them to the best advantage.

LARGE BLOOMS

Do you want large blossoms? Check your fertilizing program. Main reason for small bloom is a lack of potash. So if you have been feeding potash and blooms are still small - try one or two applications of fish emulsion or any fertilizer high in nitrogen. Humidity also is important in increasing size of bloom.

Violets Add Spark Of Life to Home

*Clark Faulkenberry
624 Greenbriar
Rock Hill, SC 29730*

Many people grow plants or have them in their homes simply for decorating purposes. I feel that plants add much to a home and even to one's life. Plants tend to bring a little spark of life into a room.

At present there seems to be a nostalgic shift to the natural aspects of life; and plants are some of the most natural things in today's rapidly changing world.

Upon entering a person's home, the first thing I look to see is if they grow plants. The kind of plants a person grows and their appearance tell me something about that person and his personality. I feel that a well grown plant is something to really be proud of.

Of course, my favorite house plant is the African violet. I enjoy growing them because it's so challenging. I also cater to them because of their lovely flowers.

Successfully growing African violets is truly an art. When you have well groomed African violets, full of blooms, you know that you've mastered that art.

My next favorite plant is probably the geranium. I love their attractive foliage and their snow-ball-like flowers. Geraniums are relatively easy to grow, although they do require plenty of sunlight and water. There is really no plant I dislike.

I'd like to hear from other AVSA members and would be happy to correspond with them. I've always been most happy since I became an AVSA member and began receiving our informative magazine, which stimulates my interest in African violets.

MAKE MINE VIOLETS

by Lucy Clingan

I am a modern woman . . . so it's off to work each day . . . but first I check each violet . . . and oh, I'd like to stay . . . then just before I lock the door . . . the sun comes drifting in . . . now in truth I must confess . . . I check each plant again . . . alas, my eight-hour day is through . . . it's home again for me . . . I pass the sofa and the chair . . . these things I do not see . . . now I turn each violet tub . . . and how I love the task . . . what is my greatest joy in life? . . . I'm sure you needn't ask.



Vern Lorenzen

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Novice Classes — Who Needs Them?

*Mrs. Bret Evans
1317 Progress Street
San Marcos, TX 78666*

When you love to grow African violets and go to a show where there are beautiful specimens displayed that are nearly two feet in diameter, covered with blooms, and with leaves so large your flattened hand will not cover the leaf from petiole base to leaf tip and from side to side, then you know someone really knows what growing violets is all about.

This was the scene that greeted me the first time I attended a judged show of the First Austin African Violet Society. My initial thoughts at this time were twofold: First, that this club really knows how to grow violets and second, its members must possess a vast store of knowledge. My next thoughts were how do they do it, and how can I learn to do it?

Early in the summer of 1976 I was privileged to get to join the First Austin African Violet Society. My main hope was to absorb a bit of knowledge through the regular meeting programs and the limited contacts I would have with folks at the monthly meetings. When it was announced late in the summer that, beginning in September, the club members would hold Novice Classes for new members in their homes, I was delighted.

We had six Novice Classes in all during the club year beginning in September and finishing up in March. Each meeting presented new ideas of great benefit to us beginners and helped us along the road to entering the judged show in April.

I use the term "beginners" loosely as some of us had been interested in growing violets for several years. In my case there were already around 75 varieties in my home demanding more space and more lights. There is no way I can count how many times I was asked by my friends and fellow members of the AVS of San Marcos why I had also joined the Austin club and was driving to Austin (75-miles round trip) for a beginners' class when I had already been growing violets for three years. The answer was simple. The violets they were growing in Austin were superior to any I had ever seen. I wanted to know the "how" of it all and hoped to be able to pass on a bit of this knowledge to my friends.

It is not known to me who first put forward the idea of Novice Classes in the Austin club (indications

are that it was D. J. Lidiak), but I will say we learned from the "masters" and maybe even some "Ph.D.'s" in violetry—Gladys Hudnall, D. J. Lidiak, Frances Young, Willie Pritchett, and Sandy Leary to name a few.

The first four classes concerned themselves mainly with growing: Specifically, preparing various soil mixes, testing for soil pH; preparing leaves for rooting and caring for newly planted leaves, testing for soil pH; determining when plantlets are ready to divide and planting in individual pots, testing for soil pH; caring for aging plants by renewing them and doing "neck" jobs; special care for minis and semiminis; proper uses of insecticides and fungicides; and, last but not least, testing for soil pH. Did you get the point that testing for soil pH was stressed as being highly important? We are all strong believers thanks to Jodi Davis who has researched soil pH and shared her findings with club members.

The last two meetings centered around getting a plant ready to show; in particular, grooming it, checking symmetry, removing suckers, and getting bloom heads up where they would show off best. Another demonstrated part of grooming was a pre-show shower and leaf brushing to remove dust, dirt, insecticide residue, and in my case, cat hair. Emphasis was given to a careful study of the show schedule to insure entering plants to their best advantage. Additional advice was given on how to wrap pots with foil before entry, making out entry tags, and by all means making sure one's name was on the plant pot and that a check list was made of what was going to show. (Ever go off and leave a plant behind in all the post show confusion?) The final point touched on was careful packing and getting the plant to show in one piece.

Suffice it to say we learned much about growing and showing African violets. There was one equally important benefit gained from the Novice Classes. That important benefit was getting to know each other.

There just isn't time in the 30 minutes of free time, or coffee time, spent at once-a-month meetings to get much beyond mere introductions. Needless to say, there is no better ice breaker than for a novice to walk into an established grower's violet area, be it the "spare" bedroom or the basement.

It was my observation that as the Novice Classes progressed, there was more comradery. New members asked more questions and even came up with some good suggestions of their own. There was as much note taking on discussion subjects going on as would please a college professor.

To answer the question posed in the title of this article, "Novice Classes — Who Needs Them?", it is my opinion that every viable club needs them. There

is nothing so frustrating to an earnest but uninformed grower as to hear references made to Sudbury's, granite, grit, thrips, Lyndon Lyon, 15-30-15 (a new CB code perhaps) or, yes, even AVSA. There is nothing quite so personally rewarding as knowing what all these things mean, their applications, and much, much more thanks to an outgoing club that is doing its best to share its accumulated knowledge.

The best way to keep interest in African violets growing (pun intended) and to keep producing bigger and better violets for show and pleasure, in my opinion, is to share knowledge. The ideal place to share knowledge is in the Novice Class.

GROW 'EM LARGE

*Edythe M. Peeler
Hidden Lake, Rt. 2
Lawndale, NC 28090*

It's been impossible for me to answer all the inquiries I received after the article, "Grow 'Em Large in Just a Year", appeared in the African Violet Magazine. So here's my answer to all those people who are interested.

First of all, the secret of growing violets large seems to be a combination of many things. Here are the things I do to achieve this:

Soil: Lyndon Lyon's recipe for soilless mix. The pH runs between 6.2 and 6.7.

Fertilizer: Peter's AV Special (12-36-14) used with each watering— $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon to a gallon of water.

Light: Grown under lights — Sylvania Gro-Lux bulbs — 14 hours per day.

Humidity: 65 to 70%.

Heat: Grown around 75° — summer and winter.

1. Starters are good size when potted in $3\frac{3}{4}$ violet pot. Wick watered.

2. When plant gets larger it is put into a special wick pot, and wick watered until span across the top is 12" to 15". Water every four weeks from top and then go back to wick watering.

3. It is then put into a rubbermaid sink basin 12"x3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Fill the bottom full of holes. I then hand-water until it is sold. Be careful at this stage. Do not overwater.

4. Last of all I give them tender loving care.

I am sold on wick watering. We grow some 6,000 plants, all wick watered on stands which my husband designed. We have a big wholesale business and do retail at the house. We entered 10 large plants in the Southern Living Show in February

I hope this information will help you in growing large plants.

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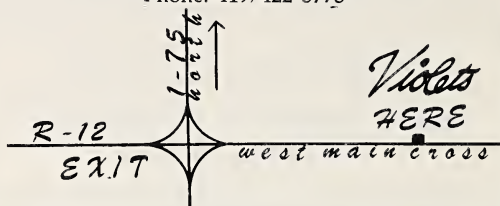
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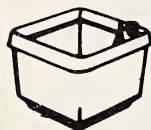
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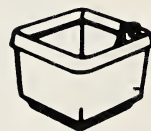
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KNOCKOUT - Large white semidbl. with dark blue center and some dark blue edging. Medium green, tailored foliage. Plant covers itself with flowers. Better than Rhapsodie 'Gigi.'

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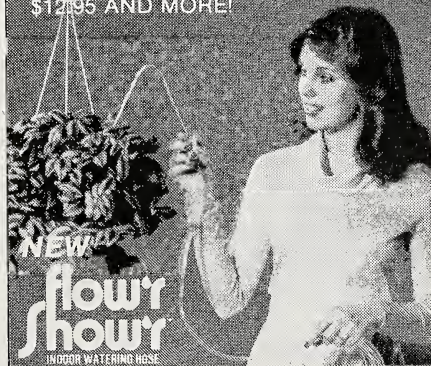
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SAVE 20/40% ON PLANT STANDS, LIGHT
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Examples of our savings listed below:



A Sylvania Fixture, 2-20 watt GRO-Lux lamps, Black, adjustable legs, Gold top (\$35.95 list) \$22.95

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EPLF-200—4-20 watt Naturescent (\$99.00 list) \$63.95

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EPLF-340—6-40 watt Naturescent (\$169.00 list) \$106.45

C Wonder Garden, Each shelf with 4-18" x 12" trays and one fixture for 2-40 watt lamps. (less lamps) Square aluminum frame, Adjustable fixtures:

EG-200C—8 trays, 2 fixtures (47"Hx49"Lx18"W) \$99.95

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EG-201—8 trays (less fixtures).....\$69.95

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GRO-LUX, NATURESCENT, VITA-LITE, VITA-LITE
POWERTWIST Fluorescent and PLANT-LITE Incandescent
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4—30% 6—35% 12—37.5%

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STOP

We would like to introduce a combination
that we would like to think can't be beat.

Miree's Gesneriads
(Mrs. Miree Lex)

Sanmar's Violetry
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Latest Gesneriads and African Violets all
under ONE roof.

—160 varieties of Episcias, Columneas, Sinn-
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—160 varieties including '78 Fisher (Canada)
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*p.s. we are a Mother and Daughter operation
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Millie Blair reg.

Charmaine

Atlantis

Red Haven

Rose Ember

White Cockatoo

Purple Cascade

Those listed are just a few of our newer things for Spring sales. A
WHOLESALE LIST IS AVAILABLE TO DEALERS AND CLUBS, BY REQUEST
with a self addressed stamped envelope. We guarantee you clean healthy
plants that have been proven through three generations for trueness of
reproduction as close to the Parent plant as is humanly possible. Our
Hybridizing program continues constantly to furnish that something that is
different and a pleasure to add to your collection. We take pride in our
packaging and service in shipping, and there are no strings attached. When
we ship your order to you, you may do anything you wish with it as to pro-
pagation with them. You may pay a little more for your plants but you get a
great deal more in variation of blooms, foliage, blooming habits and size of
blooms, either single or double.

GRANGER GARDENS

1060 Wilbur Rd.

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Ph.: 216/239-2349

Greenhouses are located 1 mi. east of Schools at Granger off Rt. 94. Open weekdays 8:00 - 5:00 except Sundays and Holidays

All Retail sales are made at Greenhouses only

Ceramic Violet Planter

Two-piece, self-watering pots
Assorted Crystaltone Glazes

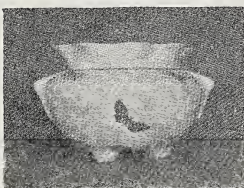
4½" Diameter \$4.00

7" Diameter \$5.50

9" Diameter \$7.00

Shipping: Add 10%

Send large, stamped,
self-addressed envelope
for color chart.



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SWIFTS' AFRICAN VIOLETS

Fresh cut leaves of our newest and
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\$1.00 per leaf, plus \$2.50 per order
for postage and handling.

(please send stamp for list)



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Humphreys' African Violets



Authorized distributor of Fredette originals and varieties of other hybridizers, including
Lyon, Maas, Annalee Violetry, and Champion.

Leaves, starter plants, and gift plants are available. All our plants are propagated by us and
grown under lights in home-like conditions. We also offer a full line of supplies.

We ship from May through October. Send 25¢ for list. Visitors are always welcome. Please
call before coming.

Bob & Sue Humphreys. • 46 Glen Avenue, East • Harrington Park, New Jersey 07640 • (201) 768-6275



Swaney's Glass Gardens

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(216) 259-4335

African violets and other Gesneriads

In honor of our new President Mrs. Gene Garner we offer:

GENE GARNER - orchid-purple dbl. - plain quilted, pointed. Registered

Hawley's Red, White & Blue for Summer

RUBY BIRCHER - Red double; wavy variegated foliage - beautiful.

CRIMSUNNY - Red double ruffle; spooned, pointed foliage - show stopper -
Registered.

KATY'S JOY - White single star; plain, pointed foliage - fresh look!

KATY'S PRIDE - Blush white large, ruffled velvety bloom; medium green quilted
foliage.

HUSKY - Dark blue single; quilted plain foliage - Show plant in all stages of growth.

STAR POWER - Medium blue single star; plain, pointed foliage. Great bloomer and
pleasing color.

PINK SPOON - Mini, variegated, pink double; Lilian Jarrett foliage. Good in ter-
rariums.

African Violets in 2¼" pots from \$1.50. Please send self addressed stamped
envelope for list.



Plastic Hanging Baskets

All with Saucers & Hangers

SIZE	COLOR	1	5	10	25
5½"	Wt. or Gr.	\$.75	\$3.25	\$6.00	\$14.00
6"	Wt. or Gr.	1.00	4.50	8.50	20.00
8"	Wt. or Gr.	1.25	6.00	11.00	25.00
10"	Wt., Yel., or Gr.	1.75	8.00	15.00	35.00
SPECIAL OFFER					
6½"	Wt. or Gr.	.80	3.50	6.50	15.00

Plastic Flower Pots

Flower Pots -Colors: All White or Green except 1¾" pot White Only

SIZE	COLOR	TYPE*	10	20	50	100	500
1¾"	Wt. Only	RS	\$.40	\$.70	\$1.60	\$3.00	\$13.00
2¼"	Wt. or Gr.	RS, Sq.	.50	.85	2.00	3.50	15.00
2½"	Wt. or Gr.	RS, Sq.	.70	1.00	2.25	4.25	20.00
3"	Wt. or Gr.	RS, Sq.	.85	1.50	3.35	6.25	30.00
3½"	Wt. or Gr.	Sq., RT	1.00	1.80	4.00	7.50	35.00
4"	Wt. or Gr.	RS, Sq., RT	1.20	2.20	4.75	9.00	40.00
4½"	Wt. or Gr.	Sq., RT	1.50	2.80	6.00	11.50	55.00
5"	Wt. or Gr.	RS, RT	1.80	3.40	7.50	13.50	62.50
6"	Wt. or Gr.	RS, RT	2.20	4.00	9.50	18.50	85.00
6½"	Wt. or Gr.	RT	2.50	4.50	10.50	20.00	90.00
7"	Wt. or Gr.	RS	4.50	8.50	20.00	36.00	170.00
8"	Wt. or Gr.	RS	4.75	9.00	21.00	38.00	180.00

TYPE* ROUND
TUB
¾ Size
(RT)



SQUARE
(Sq)



ROUND
STANDARD
(RS)



Plastic Saucers — White Only

SIZE	10	20	50	100
3"	\$1.10	\$2.00	\$4.50	\$8.50
4"	1.50	2.60	6.00	11.00
5"	1.70	3.00	7.00	13.00

WHITE PLASTIC TRAYS

25½" x 13½" x 3 3/16" DEEP

\$2.50 Each — 10 for \$22.50

POTTING MATERIALS

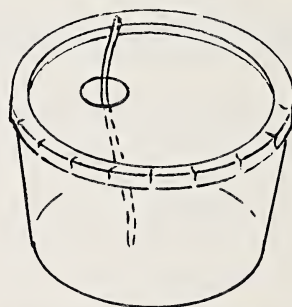
VIOLET HOUSE POTTING SOIL	1 Gal.	.50
PERLITE	1 Gal.	.50
VERMICULITE	1 Gal.	.50
DOLOMITE LIMESTONE	1 lb.	.50
CHARCOAL	12 oz.	.89
PEAT MOSS	1 Gal.	.50
4" MARKING LABELS	(100)	\$1.50
3" MARKING LABELS	(100)	\$1.25

Shipping Charges

48 STATES	\$2.00
HAWAII AND ALASKA	.50
CANADA	.50
ALL OTHER COUNTRIES	Actual Cost
FLORIDA RESIDENTS ADD 4% SALES TAX	

WICK WATER WITH PLASTIC WATER RESERVOIRS

[SNAP ON LIDS]



16 OZ.

20 for 4.25
50 for 9.25
100 for 16.50
500 for 70.00

32 OZ.

20 for 7.75
50 for 17.75
100 for 33.00
500 for 110.00

LIDS ARE RECESSED TO HOLD POTS
LASTS 2 - 5 WEEKS

16-oz. holds up to 4½" pot. An inexpensive and efficient way to water all types of potted plants. Wicks not included.

Peters Fertilizers

FORMULA	QUANTITY	TYPE	PRICE
12-36-14	12 oz.	Violet Special	\$2.00
5-50-17	12 oz.	Variegated Special	2.00
20-20-20	16 oz.	General Purpose	2.00
10-30-20	16 oz.	Blossom Booster Orchids	2.00
18-18-18	16 oz.	General Purpose	2.00
15-30-15	16 oz.	House Plant Special	2.00

Your order guaranteed
shipped within 4 working
days or you know the
reason why.

We ship UPS where possible.

MINIMUM ORDER \$7.50, PLUS SHIPPING

CASTLE VIOLETS

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No plants this year. Leaves only. Very good varieties. 30 leaves. 2 each of 15 varieties, labeled, well packed, prepaid \$7.00. Air Mail \$8.00. Instructions. To avoid duplication send list of your varieties.

Shipping from April through October

The Parson's Series African Violets

America's most sought after African violets

PARSON'S NEW INTRODUCTIONS FOR SPRING '78

The Parson's Freda, The Parson's Honor, The Parson's Star, The Parson's Wife Sport

PARSON'S OLD FAVORITES

The Parson's Beauty, Blessing, Courage, Daughter, Dream, Faith, Friend, Fullness, Glory, Joy, King, Nadine, Pink Love, Pinkness, Prayer, Ruffles, Surprise, The Parson's Song, Triumph, Twilight Pink, Victory, and Wife.

Parson's 2 1/2" Pots - \$2.50 each, Minimum Order.....\$7.50

Parson's Fresh Cut Leaves, 75c each, Min. Order.....\$7.50

Add \$2.50 for packing and insured airmail for each order.

WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO SUBSTITUTE NON PARSONS VIOLETS

15 Assorted plants, 2 1/2" pots, prepaid.....\$17.50

20 Assorted fresh cut leaves, prepaid.....\$ 7.00

20 Newest assorted fresh cut leaves, prepaid.....\$10.00

SEND ORDERS NOW FOR FALL DELIVERY

THE VIOLET DEPOT

(formerly Sim T. Holmes)

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Phone 412 — 774-5208

Shipping Coast to Coast Apr. 15 to June 30 and

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Descriptive List 25c

African Violets

No Shipping

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GUARANTEED ANALYSIS

18 % NITROGEN
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Complete water
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The **PLANT MARVEL 12-31-14** formula is a scientifically balanced, 100% water-soluble, plant food. Leading professional growers, as well as many amateur growers of African Violets, prefer this formula. It delivers needed nutrients in immediately usable form and in just the right proportions. This remarkably efficient, water-soluble fertilizer supplies the entire root system with all the essential NPK and minor elements. As a result, optimum, healthy growth and blooms are promoted. Your order is always welcome. 8 oz. can—\$2.10; 1 lb.—\$3.10; 2 1/2 lb.—\$5.90; 5 lb.—\$9.20.

Postage included. — **NO C.O.D.'S.**

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Plant Marvel's
African Violet
spray is ideal
for all
house plants



Get positive results with this remarkably effective, all-around, insecticide spray. Kills hard-to-get-at Mealy bugs, Soft Brown Scale, Aphids, Spider Mites, and many other insects. No harm to blooms or foliage, when used as directed. Won't stain fabrics or wallpaper. Harmless to children and pets. Here's the ideal insecticide for African Violets, Ives, Begonias, etc. 5 oz. can—\$2.00.

African Violets: Variegated, Miniatures,
Trailer's, Standards
Freshly cut leaves — over 200 varieties
Send 25¢ for list

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Fresh-cut leaves, rooted cuttings, Gesneriads.
All violet supplies. Exclusive for 1978 — 17 new
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Send 25¢ for List. (Coins only)

Visitors Welcome

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Proton Station

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Rose Knoll Gardens

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Our own Illini series and varieties by leading
hybridizers. Visitors always welcome. No shipping, no
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African Violets or Episcias

6 plants - Labeled blooming size (assorted) . . . \$10.00

12 Starter African Violet plants (assorted) . . . \$10.00

6 fresh cuttings Episcias labeled . . . \$ 5.00

16 fresh cut - Labeled African violet leaves . . . \$ 5.00

My choice only — Listing 30¢

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Cindy's Violetry

"On the World's Most Beautiful Beaches"

P. O. Box 9363 - Panama City Beach, FL 32407

PREMIER INTRODUCTION, beautiful new hybrids by SANDRA LEARY

CAPTIVA: Floriferous showplant! Pink dbl. Fluted stars, strong clusters.

DESPERADO: Large Wine-purple semidbl. stars. Bright yellow stamens. Show plant.

LITTLE SEABIRD: Profuse show plant. White and purple, often striped, semimini.

NIGHT MOTH: Purple semidbl. w/ruffled green-white edge. yellow center. Blooms heavy

SUMMER BUTTERFLY: Super show plant. Rich pink w/white edge. Large clusters.

(see our list for more of Sandra's new releases)

Sandra has worked these past 3 years developing her new hybrids and they have proven to be exceptionally beautiful and outstanding for both the collector and exhibitor. With pleasure we present these for the first time!!

**FIRECRACKER SPECIAL **

Order by or before July 4th and receive a 5th violet free! Special includes this ad, all plants on our current list. Also to include the "1979" Fredette releases. Be the first to order and receive such "1979" releases as GEMINESSE, LU ANN, ROYAL HUSSY, TIGER and a dozen other "79" Fredettes. "1979" release ready to ship Sept. 1st. all other varieties ready to ship now. All varieties are \$2.95 ea., min. of 4 plants, shipped AIR MAIL. NO SHIPPING CHGS. Fl. residents add 4% sales tax.

ORDER EARLY, QUANTITIES LIMITED

Please send stamp for our list of
FREDETTE ORIGINALS — SANDRA LEARY'S
REEDS — SWIFTS — CHAMPIONS

Tom and Cindy Bodiford

Tel. 904/234-6897

Home of African Violets 11 Miles from Greenville

Over 500 varieties from the best. Latest from Fishers of Canada, Parson, Verns, Champion, and many others. Visit us and see over 6000 basement grown violets, welcome 7 days a week. Please call first. Sorry no shipping or list this season.

Edna T. Barton
803/859-2158 503 Southway St.
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Fresh Cut leaves
EPISCIAS - ALLEGRO - PLANTS
IRENE FREDETTE ORIGINALS
List now ready — 25¢

Heavenly Violets

MRS. MARY V. BOOSE
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African Violets

We have most of the "1977 Best Varieties List" plus over 400 specially selected varieties. Our violets are grown in a separate plant house adjacent to our residence and we maintain thousands of plants at reasonable prices.

For your convenience we keep irregular hours so just call before coming.

(Located about 40 miles Northwest of Chicago, IL)

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Treasure Trail	Corky	Dyn-o-mite
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Star Performer	Mr. Chips	Trails Delight
Winter Walk	Red Wow	Delta Rose
Mellow Trail	Cherish	Dazzle Dare
Coral Kiss	Good Times	Coral Trail
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Complete List 35¢		

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Phone: 301/592-2894



White	Blue or Purple
Faith	Cherub - Tommie Blue
Star Shine	Symphony - Black Magic
Miriam Steel	Wisteria - Blue Belle
Cameo Queen	Frankie - Blue Tempest
Eternal Snow	The King - Blue
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Fresh cut leaves .85¢ each. Min. order \$5.00
Postage \$2.00

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. . . HELP US GROW AND WE'LL HELP
YOU GROW BEAUTIFUL

AFRICAN VIOLETS!!

Our varieties include the old and the new of major hybridizers. We provide top quality plants to all our customers.

Special ** Special ** Special **

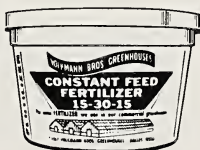
Introductory offer, order from this list and receive a 10% discount for a \$5.00 order or 20% discount for a \$10.00 or more order. Our complete list will be sent with your order or upon request, please enclose a stamp.

Pink	Red
Pink Reverie	Jingle Bells
My Darling	Red Safari
Ballet Anna	Super Red
Ballet Lisa	Rose Ember
	Crimson Beauty

Exclusive distributorship of Fredette
Originals in Maryland Area.

RESERVOIR WICK POT T.M.

"It Waters and Feeds at the Same Time"



CONSTANT FEED FERTILIZER

8 oz. \$2.25 postpaid

PRICES ON RESERVOIR WICK POTS

EACH

1 to 5	\$1.50 postpaid
6 to 19	\$1.35 postpaid
20 or more	\$1.20 postpaid

Send stamped self-addressed long envelope for 20 page catalog of AFRICAN VIOLETS and SUPPLIES.

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New varieties

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Best of the Leading Hybridizers

New & Older Varieties

Quality Leaves & Plants

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Descriptive List 25c

State Inspected

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HUNDREDS OF VARIETIES FROM THE LEADING
HYBRIDIZERS, OLD AND NEW VARIETIES STAND-
ARDS, MINIS, AND TRAILERS. STARTER PLANTS
AND PLANTLETS. LIST 50c

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Beverly's Violets

Leaves — Starter & Blooming Plants

Supplies

Over 200 Varieties

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279-8002



Violets Atlanta

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*Summer's the time for girl watching . . .
Here are some real beauties to look out for:*

Octa Faye (Reed) — beautiful fluted peach dbls. with darker peach on top petals, flat symmetrical foliage.

Dixie Dottie (Reed) — fluffy violet dbls. heavily splashed with purple, dark quilted foliage.

Montgomery Belle (Reed) — beautiful 2" violet dbls. with geneva edge - sometimes has light fantasy markings.

Rio Rita (GG) — adorable light pink semidoubles with deep pink eyes are held high over very flat round green leaves. You'll love the way it blooms!

Viola Tucker (GG) — pix. March '78. deep pink dbls. with clean white edges, ornamental girl foliage.

Dubonnet Deb (GG) — deep garnet red doubles over gorgeous black girl foliage.

Ermine (Swift) — Large fluffy white dbls. delicately touched with purple on wavy green foliage.

Michele (IF) — an abundance of hot pink frilly dbls. in clusters, dark tailored foliage.

Abigail Adams (IF) — large semidouble stars in shades of hyacinth blue, dark foliage.

THE DO SERIES — TEN DAZZLING BEAUTIES

DO'S JEAN

DO'S PAT PLUNKETT

DO'S JENNY

DO'S JUDY LYNN

DO'S JANET LEE

DO'S SPITFIRE

DO'S REALIDO

DO'S SPLASHES

DO'S DUBLOOM

DO'S DREAMER

Due to the overwhelming response to the "Do Series" there is a waiting list. We apologize for any delays in shipping.

Plants \$2.75 ppd

leaves \$1.25 ppd

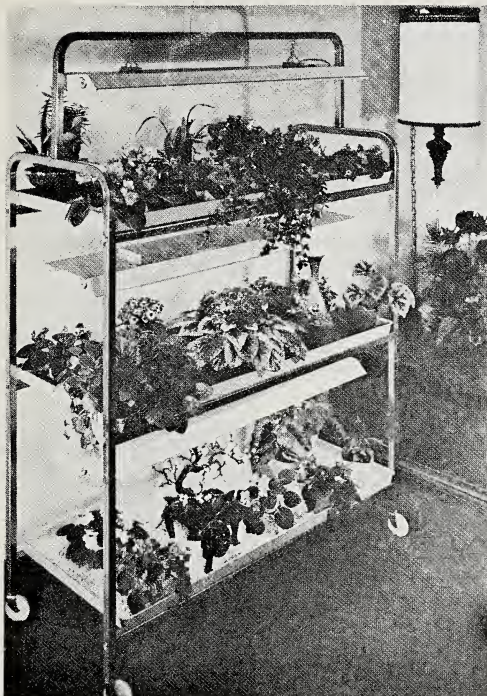
25c for list

Minimum order:

3 plants or 5 leaves

Smaller orders — Add \$1.50

GREEN HOUSE NEWS



We have expanded our growing area enough so we may ship plants again. Plants only, no leaves, no cuttings. Our list is based on the varieties most popular with our extensive retail trade. Out of 100 new varieties we test each year, only 5 to 10 are propagated for sale.

Gro-Cart production is high, keeping up with sales, so shipments are prompt.

Gro-Cart is easily the most graceful, convenient and practical unit on the market.

Send for: Plant List — 25¢

Gro-Cart brochure AV is free.

FLASH: Carol's Ms Pretty Pink won the California Hybridizer's Award at the Bakersfield, Calif. African Violet Show, entered by Gayle Chappell.

THE GREEN HOUSE

9515 Flower Street

Bellflower, California 90706

Daily 10 - 5, Sunday 1 - 5, Closed Holidays. Phone (213) 925-0870

\$25.00 SPECIAL FOR FALL 1978

ALL NINE (9) NEW VARIETIES (our own) POSTAGE PAID—ORDER FROM THIS AD

CAMARK: Semidouble PURPLE, large bloom

DO-SI-DO: PINK double. Variegated foliage.

MAIS OUI! Big LAVENDER DOUBLE, some fantasy

MRS. IKE: Double BLUE, variegated foliage. Honoring Mrs. Eichelberger.

OUACHITA PINK: Double PINK. A sister to OUACHITA BLUES (Pronounced Wash-a-taw)

PRETTY LADY: Delicate Pastel PINK double.

SARA LOU: Dark BLUE fringed double. In loving memory of Sara Lou Howard (Montgomery African Violet Society)

TIZ PINK: Double PINK. Sister to TIZ BLUE.

VERY BLUEBERRY: Medium BLUE semi-double. Good white edge.

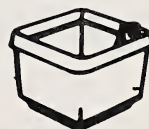
ORDER NOW for FALL shipment - - - YOU WILL BE GLAD YOU DID
PLEASE SEND COMPLETE NAME AND ADDRESS WITH YOUR CHECK OR MONEY
ORDER FOR ALL 9 PLANTS:

The House of Violets

Charlyne and Ralph Reed
936-940 Garland Street, SW
Dept. FS
Camden, Arkansas 71701



See our other ad on page 68



AFRICAN VIOLET COLLECTIONS

All different & labeled-Postpaid

12 Starter plants-My choice.....\$15.00

15 Fresh cut leaves-My choice.....\$ 5.00

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Over 1000 named varieties — List 50¢

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Fresh cut leaves — Our choice

20 labeled leaves \$5.50 P.P.

List 25¢

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Starter Plants

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Episcia Cuttings

Many varieties from leading hybridizers

Irene Fredette Distributor

Send 25¢ for complete listing

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"Schultz-Instant"
LIQUID PLANT FOOD
10-15-10

Concentrated, High Analysis — All Purpose — 10-15-10 "Starts and Feeds" all Plants Indoors and Outdoors.

Available at your store or send \$1.00 for 5½ oz., \$2.00 for 12 oz (includes mailing).

"Schultz-Instant"
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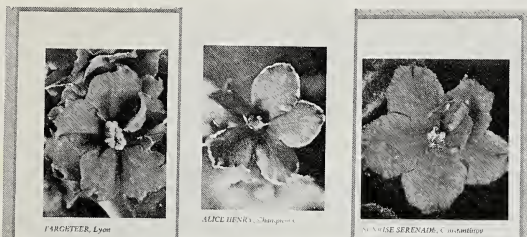
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MAGIC GLOW—Double huge pink, white edge. Dark foliage.
MILLIE BLAIR—Light blue fluted with white edge
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PURPLE CASCADE—Frilly purple dbl. wavy variegated foliage
RIO GRANDE—2½" wine dbl. with purple tips
SNOWFIRE—Huge white, marked and splotted red
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CHIPPER—Vivid reddish purple dbl. with white edge
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CORAL CAPER—Large dark coral dbl. Dark foliage
CORAL CASCADE—Reddish coral single, darker center
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foliage
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VENETIAN LACE—Frilly white with orchid edge. Wavy foliage
WHITE BIRCH—Large white, some with green and orchid
WHITE HERITAGE—Frilly white dbl. with blue edge. Ruffled foliage
WILD COUNTRY—3" fluted purple with thin white edge
WILD FIRE—2½" fuchsia dbl. star with white edge
WILD FLAME—Single fringed fuchsia red with white border

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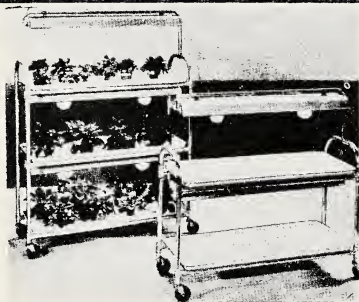
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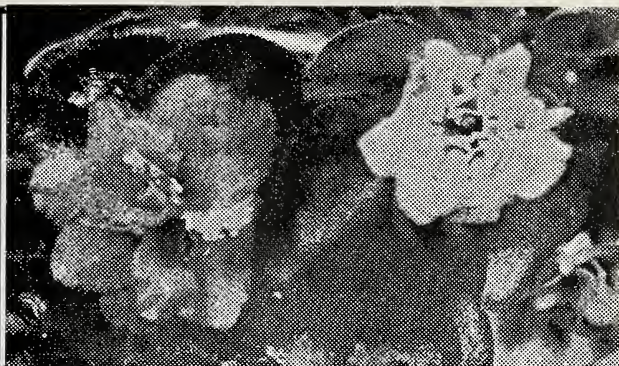
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African Violet

MAGAZINE

Volume 31

Number 4

September, 1978

PART I OF II PARTS



Strictly Business — Your Business

INFORMATION FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH YOUR SOCIETY TO INSURE GOOD SERVICE
IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE ITEM SEND EACH ITEM TO THE CORRECT PERSON
ALWAYS GIVE YOUR NAME AND COMPLETE ADDRESS

MEMBERSHIP

AVSA Membership: Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewal membership to AVSA Treasurer, AVSA office. Life - \$100; Commercial - \$15; Individual - \$6.

AFFILIATES: Chapter - \$6; Council, State or Region - \$15. Please complete the form received with your renewal notice and return to AVSA office with affiliate dues check.

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION: Send ideas, offers to help, request for assistance to Mrs. Harold Rienhardt, 4463 W. Seneca Tpk., Syracuse, NY 13215

AFFILIATES: For information on show awards, how to organize a chapter, or membership questions, write Mrs. Wayne W. Schroeder, 1739 N. 74th Ct., Elmwood Park, IL 60635

AVSA OFFICE: Mrs. Clarice Bell, Office Manager, Box 1326, Knoxville, TN 37901

AVSA EMBLEMS: See Jan. issue - Member, Past President, Life Member pins. Own and wear them with pride. Order from AVSA office.

BEST VARIETIES - HONOR ROLL COMPILER: Mrs. Leon Fiedler, Rt. 1, Prescott, WI 54021

BOOSTER FUND: Send contributions to Mrs. A. F. (Mary) Boland, 6415 Wilcox Ct., Alexandria, VA 22310

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND: Send contributions, club or individual, to Mrs. L. F. Lidiak, 4503 Sinclair Ave., Austin, TX 78756

COMMERCIAL

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES: Albert Buell, Box 218, Eastford, CT 06242

COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Lloyd Lyn McArthur, 1175 Cumberland Rd., NE, Atlanta, GA 30306

CONVENTION:

AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Mrs. R. A. Chase, 482 Rutherford Ave., Redwood City, CA 94061 by Sept. 1.

PROGRAM: Mar. issue. Send special requests for workshop programs; suggest names of interesting speakers to Mrs. J.A.W. Richardson, RR1, Box 70, Tavares, FL 32778.

SCHEDULE: Jan. issue.

TIME AND PLACE: If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Jimmy Watson, 1361 Madison Ave., Apt. 2-AA, New York, NY 10028

CULTURE FOLDERS: Use for shows, with sales, or wherever memberships may be solicited. Membership application included. Free from AVSA office. Please state quantity required.

HANDBOOK FOR JUDGES AND EXHIBITORS: Send \$3 check, payable to AVSA, to AVSA office. (Reason: previously Handbooks were ordered from Carey)

JUDGING SCHOOL: For information on how to become a judge or to register a school, write Mrs. William J. Krogman, 1325 Parkway Dr., Brookfield, WI 53005

LIBRARY: Order AVSA Library slide programs and packets from AVSA office. List in June issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Harvey Stone, 51 Peach Highlands, Marblehead, MA 01945

MAGAZINE:

EDITOR: Mrs. Grace Foote, 211 Allien Pl., Port Arthur, TX 77640

ADVERTISING MANAGER: For advertising rates and copy information write Mrs. Terrance R. Leary, 2088 Illinois Ave., NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33703

AFFILIATE 'APPENINGS: Send to Editor.

ARTICLES: Send to Editor

DEADLINE DATES: JUNE issue, Mar. 1; SEPT. issue, June 1; NOV. issue, Aug. 1; JAN. issue, Oct. 1; MAR. issue, Dec. 1.

BACK ISSUES: Complete your set now: Request price list of available issues from AVSA office.

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QUESTION BOX: Mrs. Charles (Katherine) Hawley, 2432 Nottingham Rd., Columbus, OH 43221; Summer address: Rt. 27, West Southport, ME 04576

MAGAZINE MART: To buy or sell copies of the *African Violet Magazine*, contact Mrs. E. A. Nelson, 603 E. Essex Ave., St. Louis, MO 63122

MASTER VARIETY LIST: Number 3 (1976) \$3.50. A must for judges, exhibitors, serious growers. Describes all varieties registered to June 1, 1976, all recognized species, and non-registered cultivars introduced from 1966 to June 1, 1976. Order from AVSA office.

SUPPLEMENT: Send any correction and/or description of new cultivar with hybridizer's name to Plant Registration Chairman.

MINIATURE & SEMIMINIATURE VARIETY LIST: \$2. Mrs. Sidney Bogin, 39 Boyd St., Long Beach, NY 11561

NOMINATING: Edith V. Peterson, 1545 Green Street, San Francisco, CA 94123

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE: AVSA Secretary; Mrs. H. N. Hansen, 708 Wyndale Rd., Jenkintown, PA 19046

PARLIAMENTARIAN: Mrs. Thomas J. Edmundson, 4605 NW 45th St., Tamarac, FL 33319 is available to answer parliamentary questions for affiliates. Send SASE for reply.

PLANT REGISTRATION: Mrs. Fred Tretter, 4988 Schollmeyer Ave., St. Louis, MO 63109

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research, or names of interested qualified potential research personnel to Frank Tinari, 2325 Valley Rd., Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

WATCH FOR SPECIAL INFORMATION IN THESE

ISSUES: AFFILIATE LIST - Nov.; BEST VARIETIES LIST - Nov.; JUDGES & TEACHERS - Sept.; LIBRARY PROGRAMS - June; LIFE MEMBERS - June; MASTER VARIETY SUPPLEMENT - Sept.; MINUTES - Sept.; NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT - Jan.; OFFICERS & COMMITTEES - June; SHOW & JUDGES RULES CHANGES - Sept.; TALLY TIME - Mar.; TREASURER'S & AUDITOR'S REPORT - Sept.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the method and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

COVER PAGE: The beautiful African violet on the Cover Page was hybridized by Donald Baker of Baker's African Violets, Tucker, GA. He has named it 'Devil'. It's a 2½" rosy red, semidouble with cherry center of cherry tips. It has an abundance of flowers and has medium green foliage.

PERTAINING TO VIOLETS

4. More About Bugs — Ethel W. Champion, Clay, NY
11. Mark, You're Terrific — Adeline Krogman, Brookfield, WI
14. Moon Planting — Em Hunt, Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada
22. Seattle AVS Has Booklet
22. Can You Answer Reader's Problem?
25. Culture Folders Are Available
26. Violets For Your Wedding — Mary C. Irwin, St. Louis, MO
36. Coming Events
38. How About a Bath?
38. Fertilizer Problems
40. Says to Handle Clorox With Care — Mrs. Jimmy Hentz, Panama City, FL
40. Watch Your Plants
41. Over 150 Miles of Twisting Road — Only Two Leaves Broken — Anne K. Christensen, Point Arena, CA
41. Drainage Idea
49. A Visit in Prison
51. You Can Grow African Violets — Irene Lineberg, Birmingham, AL
51. Terrariums — Roger Strickland, Valley Center, CA
51. Use Right Pot!
52. African Violet Trailers — Carl D. Martin, Opa-Locka, FL
53. AV Clinic Held by Affiliate
55. Try This!
56. Congratulate Me! I'm a Mother! — Montine (Monty) Dale, Denver, CO
57. Did You Know . . .
57. Three Cheers for Procrastination! — Jean Blair, Franklin, PA
60. Portraits: David and Eileen Masterson
60. Finds Orthene Toxic to AV — Ronn Nadeau, St. Louis, MO
61. Poem: African Violet Fever — Ruth O. Brown
64. An Experiment in Powders — for Cut Leaves — Dr. Alvin W. Shultz, Prairie Village, KS
64. Man Alive! — Monte Pearce, Layton, UT
65. Fluorescent Light Gardening — Tom Seiler, Philadelphia, PA
66. Poem: "Companions" — Loretta Cook
67. Preserve Your Prize Blossoms — Mary LaClair, Vernon, NY
68. Turkey Necks — M. L. Horne, London, Ontario, Canada
68. Mist Your Plants

COLUMNISTS

3. Letter from the AVSA President — Mrs. Marvin (Gene) Garner, North Canton, OH
8. Question Box — Mrs. C. S. (Catherine) Hawley, W. Southport, ME
20. Registration Report — Mrs. Fred (Adele) Tretter, St. Louis, MO
23. Beginner's Column — Mrs. J. A. W. (Ann) Richardson, Tavares, FL
24. Boyce Edens Research Fund — Mrs. L. F. (D. J.) Lidiak, Austin, TX
25. AVSA Booster Fund — Mrs. Arthur F. (Mary) Boland, Alexan-

- dria, VA
39. AVSA Affiliates — Mrs. Wayne (Mildred) Schroeder, Elmwood Park, IL
50. Musings From the "Mini-Mam" — Mrs. Sidney (Ellie) Bogin, Long Beach, NY
54. Your Library — Harvey L. Stone, Marblehead, MA
61. A Foote on the Violet Path — Mrs. Henry P. (Grace) Foote, Port Arthur, TX

SOCIETY BUSINESS

- INSIDE COVER PAGE — Strictly Business—Your Business (AVSA Directory)
12. Judges' Workshop Information — Mrs. James (Ruth) Carey, Knoxville, TN
 32. Convention Minutes
 37. Lifetime Judges
 41. New Life Members
 42. AVSA Judges, Life ime Judges and Teachers
 51. Did You Know . . .
 53. Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements
 68. Notice to Affiliates

CONVENTION

15. Stand Up and Be Counted — Anne Tinari, Huntingdon Valley, PA
16. Commercial Displays — Catherine Hawley, Southport, ME
19. Commercial Exhibits
29. Yearbook Entries for Denver Convention — Mrs. H. Nicholas Hansen, Jenkintown, PA
29. Yearbook Entries at Austin Convention
35. First Convention — First Show — Larry E. Collins, Waco, TX
37. 1979 Special Awards Listed — Celine Chase, Redwood City, CA
37. Seattle AVS Is Winner!
38. Denver — The Mile High City — Linda Boster, Denver, CO
55. Research Work Continuing at Penn State Univesity — Supported by Boyce Edens Funds

MISCELLANEOUS

11. In Memoriam
37. Grow a Plant Pet — Virginie Fowler Elbert
64. Notice to Affiliates
66. My Favorite Odor is Garlic — Florence McQuater, St. Louis, MO

PART II

1. The 1978 Master List of African Violets — Adele Tretter, St. Louis, MO
10. Nematodes
11. Bigger and Better — But Best? — Mrs. C. W. Beattie, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
11. Winters Dream?
12. African Violets Do Help — Mrs. James Garden, Birmingham, AL

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P. O. Box 1326

Knoxville, TN 37901

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Please enroll me as a member of African Violet Society of America, Inc. My dues are enclosed. Memberships are defined below. Membership year March 1 to February 28 includes five issues of the AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE beginning with the June issue, followed by September, November, January and March issues.

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STAFF

MRS. GRACE FOOTE, Editor
211 Allien Place, Port Arthur, TX 77640
MRS. TERRANCE R. LEARY, Adv. Mgr.
2088 Illinois Ave., NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33703
MRS. CLARICE BELL, Office Manager
P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, TN 37901
MRS. W. F. ANDERSON, Publications Chairman
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75. Betty's Unique Boutique
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87. Beverly's Violets
81. Bill and Marleen's Violets
85. Boswell and Barnard
70. Bright Blossoms Greenhouse
83. Bugtussle Violets
84. Butler's Nursery
68. Cal Coast Growers
82. Cape Cod Violetry
76. Natalie Capriotti
82. Carolina Violets
83. Castle Violets
71. Christine's Flowerland
85. Cindy's African Violets
69. Cindy's Violetry

75. Clarel Laboratories - Granny's Bloomers
76. C. M. Conlon
85. Cramer's
73. Crestwood Violetry
82. Betty Culver
76. Marie Dattalo
82. Rhonda DeLong
73. DoDe's Gardens
81. DoDe's Gardens
81. Drossos Gesneriad Greenhouse
78. First Austin AVS
INSIDE BACK COVER — Fischer's Greenhouses
79. Floralite Company — Lumen lighter plant stands
68. Frathel's Originations
88. FloraCart Watering Wand — Quick, neat, easy
83. For Love of Green Violetry
70. Gone To Pot Nursery
71. Granger Gardens
82. The Green House
70. The Green Scene, Inc.
68. Bernard Greeson
70. Gerry Halusek
71. Harborcrest Nurseries
71. Heavenly Violets
71. High Hat African Violets
71. Hillside Violets
76. C. K. Holley
85. Home Grow Products
72. House of Violets
76. Humphreys African Violets
74. Indoor Gardening Supplies
68. Jacksons House of Violets
82. Edward Janosick
86. Jim-Jam Violets
76. Klinkel's African Violets
86. Albert Kreiger
76. Sandra Leary
73. Josephine Langowski
86. Lee's African Violets
83. Leix's Village Violetry
75. Little Violet House
73. Lloyd's African Violets
75. Lloyd's African Violets
86. Louise's Greenhouses
74. Lyndon Lyon
78. Mary's African Violets
83. Margie's Violets
74. McClure's Violet Depot
87. Messin-Round Violetry
78. R. J. Miderski
83. Miller's
82. Malcolm O'Dell
79. Patrick Products
70. Petite Dream Shoppe
81. Pat's Violet House
87. Petroffsky Greenhouses
73. Plant Hang-Up
88. Plant Marvel
84. Plantsmith
70. Prolific Plants
70. A Rainbow of Violets
84. Ray's African Violets
83. Reigning Violets
75. Rose Knoll Farms
78. St. Louis Violet Nurseries
75. Schultz Instant Food
86. Sharon's African Violets
84. Sherri's Greenhouses
87. Shoplite Company — New decorative plant stands
84. Sooner State Violet Nursery
70. Strawther Violets
80. The Violet House
BACK COVER — Tinari Greenhouses
68. Tingle's
75. Tomara African Violets
87. Utopia Greenhouses
75. Howard Utz
87. Viola's Violets
87. Violet Buds and Blossoms
86. Violet Farm
83. Violet Fun
85. Violet Gardens
70. Violet House
70. Violet Room
84. Violet Village
87. Violet Ville
70. The Violet Window
83. Violets at the Ernst's
84. Violets by Bess
86. Violets Galore at the Corals
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81. The Walkers
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POSTMASTER: Please send change of address form 3579 to African Violet Society of America, Inc., P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, TN 37901.

Letter From The AVSA President



Our Austin convention in April, was an inspiring pre-spring experience, since spring did not arrive in northeastern Ohio for at least another month. Must say that the Texas wild flowers, including the famous Texas Bluebonnets, put on a spectacular welcome for the African violets and their enthusiastic growers. No where in the state of Texas were the flowers more beautiful than in the African violet show. The Austin convention and show chairmen did themselves proud.

When I was given the chance to stay on an extra week after the AVSA convention and see more of the great state of Texas, I could not resist. The time was so full of seeing so much that is part of our country's history.

The Fiesta San Antonio, in celebration of early years, its founders, its heroes of the Alamo, life in the missions, and the early settlers was a lesson in the history and culture of that area.

It was a special privilege to be able to visit with the members of the Beaumont African Violet Club at their meeting. We are indeed 'one big family'. So many wonderful people with their hearts and minds attuned to cultural interest in the African violet plant. It really does have some unspoken charm that reaches far beyond the limits of our country's boundaries and language barriers.

Some of the most interesting hours were spent in Beaumont, watching our African Violet Magazine take shape before our very eyes: From our gifted Editor (Grace Foote's) desk to the printer (Gus Becker's) type and press. it was an awe-some experience. Through the delicate manipulation of the color processes, it is almost unbelievable to see the pages of print and color take form. The color prints of plants reproduced so near the original picture that you wonder how the different mediums can come so close — except by the experienced "know how" of the press operator.

It was all so very worth while. I left the area with the promise to myself that I must sometime see more of that wonderful state and its very hospitable people.

Now, we must turn our thoughts to "Tall and Terrific - Denver". This will be the location of our 1979 AVSA convention. Because of the late spring season in Denver, Colorado, our convention will be held June 4 to 9th, 1979; a little later than in other years. Those who could not attend conventions in the past, will certainly find this time to their convenience.

Have a wonderful season of growing and showing your African violets.

Best wishes to you all,

Gene Garner

MORE ABOUT BUGS

by Ethel W. Champion
8848 Van Hoesen Road
Clay, NY 13041

Did you ever look at a plant and wonder what was the matter with it? Something looked wrong, but what? Then you decided it was buggy and sprayed it and sprayed it and sprayed it to death.

Or maybe you just ignored that gray twisted center and soon all your plants had gray twisted centers. This time you decided that violets are just plain hard to grow and gave them all to your neighbor. Poor neighbor!

Neither decision was the right one. In the first case, the plant was probably just overwatered slightly and no spray was needed. And even if it did have some unwelcome insects, enough spraying is enough. You could have saved the plant.

In the second case, spraying was needed and it was ignored.

So let's face it. It isn't easy to find out what ails your plants when things go wrong. It is difficult to know if the problem is one of culture or insects. Some insects leave clues but, to be a detective smart enough to read the clues, takes years of experience.

The easiest way to handle bugs is to never get them. That sounds silly but there are good habits that you can establish that will go a long way toward avoiding insects. The purpose of this article and chart is to give you some practical, preventive suggestions, clues for identifying insects should you get them and remedies for fastest eradication.

In looking back over some of the better bugs I have known, it seems that they came one at a time. Just as we got one under control another came along. First it was nematodes and that was cleared up with VC-13. Then came soil mealy bugs and Cygon 2E kept them under control.

A recent pest is the blossom thrips. It is easily recognizable as it invades the pollen sacs, leaves clues of pollen on the blossoms and is also very visible. If you touch the flower or blow on it, you can see the threadlike fellow running home. It is tough to get rid of. You think they are gone and six months later they reappear. The first remedy is the hard one - pick all blossoms off. Cygon and Malathion are quite effective as a spray but the new Orthene seems to work even better. Systemics are ineffective against thrips.

Cyclamen mites have always been the worst pest because they are so prevalent on outdoor plants and so invisible. When you finally find out that you have them, you have a lot more than you think you do. Damage is apparent only in advanced stages and, by that time, all the neighboring plants have it in some

stage. The tiny mite feeds on the center leaves, causing a twisting and gray look. In advanced stages the center becomes a tight gray mass, completely distorted. The flowers show streaks of other colors. A plant at this stage can be saved but it might be smarter to throw it away. However, if you can't part with it, pick out the center, spray it and a new center will form.

You probably brought the mites in on another violet you added to your collection, but they can also come in on clothing, other plants, your pets, other insects and can even blow in the windows. Two years in a row, plants under a north basement window developed mites in summer. Mites love summer, but then, who doesn't? Then, I finally got smart and sprayed the window screens regularly. No more mites.

Although mites do spread easily and are there before you know it, they can be prevented and controlled. Some are becoming resistant and you may have to try more than one insecticide. Kelthane spray and Cygon used as a team, seem to work the best. Orthene is a new product and highly recommended for mites but, frankly, I haven't had a mite to try it on since the product came out. Lucky me!

There are other, less harmful bugs that would love to have our violets for lunch. The following chart will help you to handle them. And, down the road, there's bound to be a new one waiting to give us problems in the future but worrying about what's going to happen is a waste of time. A better plan is to take care of our plants in such a way that the risk of an invasion is lessened.

PREVENTING TROUBLE

The one most important habit to develop in preventing problems with bugs is to isolate for a period of 4-6 weeks every plant brought in. This interval gives time for anything to develop that wasn't visible at the time you acquired the plant. Isolation does not necessarily mean a separate room but it is a good idea. Some of the critters can jump. A place apart from your other plants will usually suffice, remembering that by touch you can transfer some insects.

My isolation plants get 2 sprays with Kelthane about a week apart and are watered with Cygon. They are watched for clues of insects. Several are pulled from the pots and roots checked for nematodes, soil mealy bugs and rot. Foliage is watched for signs of mites, leaf mealy bugs and blossoms

are checked for thrips.

All plants should receive this isolation period -plants you purchased, those that summered outdoors and even those that Grandma gave you. Show plants returning home should be sprayed, also. Any soil, compost, etc, brought in from outdoors should be treated with heat or chemicals. Cut flowers from your garden should be kept apart from house plants.

This practice of isolating new plants is the one habit that will do the most to insure that your plants remain insect free.

Following certain rules of cleanliness can also go a long way toward eliminating problems that do not need to happen. All pots and saucers should be scrubbed in a solution of Clorox and detergent before using again. If they are allowed to soak overnight, or even a day or two, the soil drops away. Stubborn soil can be taken off with nylon net or a brush. Table surfaces should be cleaned frequently with a Clorox and detergent solution. Each plant should have its own saucer.

The use of treated or sterilized soil is a must. When a plant is pulled from its pot for resetting, hold it to one side, not over the potting soil container. Used soil should be thrown away.

POOR CULTURE OR BUGS?

Good culture is evident when plants are thriving but poor culture can often take on the appearance of insect damage or disease. For example, crown rot is more often caused by overwatering than by nematodes. Do not confuse insect or disease damage with conditions caused by the following:

Overwatering - center looks wet, beads of salts from soil hang on plant hairs, eventually rots.

Underwatering - plant wilted, roots damaged, easy to rot.

Using water from water conditioner - tight centers, very brittle, shiny foliage.

Poor, heavy soil - slow growth, tight center, easy

to rot.

Need for repotting - poor growth, yellow leaves, small flowers.

Overfertilizing - tight center, stunted growth, damaged roots.

Low humidity - poor growth, small flowers.

Too much light - yellow leaves, tight centers, leaves roll under.

Too little light - poor growth, spindly foliage, few flowers.

Too hot - tight centers, streaked blossoms.

Too cold - leaves roll under, slow growth.

DAILY ATTENTION

Another aspect of culture is daily attention. Few plants require care every day but a few seconds of time, a thoughtful look, is sometimes all that separates the green thumbs from the brown. For example, give second thoughts to a dusty-looking plant center, spilled pollen or a plant that stays wilted after watering. The dusty center might be overwatering or fertilizing, some imperfect flowers do dump some pollen and the wilted plant might also be from too much water. At this point, the ailing plant should be put off by itself and watched. Think about the plant with the dusty center. Is it too wet now? Is it cold? Did you measure the plant food carelessly? Think through what the problem might be.

When you see spilled pollen, check neighboring plants. If they are spilling, too, it is probably thrips. Wilted plants indicate root troubles. Pull it from the pot, look for nematode beads on the roots, or soil mealy bugs which look like small rice grains. If the roots are brown and mushy, rather than light colored and firm, then root injury is causing the wilting. This is caused by overwatering, too heavy soil, or perhaps, fertilizing when the plant was quite dry.

However, if you should find insects, don't panic. Simply set out to find the solution to your particular problem and diligently follow the procedure necessary to eliminate it. Remember to isolate the infected plants and try to touch them as little as possible. Wash your hands after caring for them.

MAINTENANCE

Some violet growers have developed a planned program for keeping their collection free of insects. By spraying periodically, they hope to catch that first bug. Others wait for the first sign of trouble and act fast.

Nowadays, with ecology a new word on everyone's mind, the use of chemicals, except as necessary, has become a no-no. But how do we decide what is necessary?

Overspraying is very foolish. It is a risk to our health and to our plants. Nearly all spray materials damage the flowers, can harm the foliage and even

THE VIOLETS SPEAK

Adele Violet Mason

Each tiny blossom of delicate hue . . . Bring me sweet thoughts from the soul of you . . . I need but pause near their curly leaves gay . . . To hear words they are bursting to say . . . "I am not a bird that for you can sing . . . But oh, what a message of love I bring". . . This melody rings in the heartstrings of me . . . It radiates joy in each corner I see . . . Oh, I think I shall never be lonely again . . . As long as I share sweet secrets with them . . . Violets can speak, and violets can pray . . . Come close, that you too may hear what they say.

kill the plant if used too often or too strong. Some persons are very allergic to spray materials. Yet, never spraying can also be foolish. Under certain conditions an occasional spray makes very good sense.

Perhaps each grower should consider his individual situation, his sources of contamination and use that as a guide. Let's assume you have a "clean" collection, live on the tenth floor and have no pets. Therefore, you have few sources of contamination. You need only to follow general rules of cleanliness and isolate new plants to keep your violets free of insects. The grower who lives in the country, loves open windows and has a dog, will need to keep a more careful watch. A basic preventive program for him might be to spray with Kelthane, Orthene or Malathion once a month, especially during the summer, and a Cygon drench every 4 months. Many people swear by the Pest Strips as a preventive measure, replacing them as indicated.

Your program might turn out to be somewhere between the two extremes. Or you just may decide to

be careful about cleanliness and isolation, to never risk spraying a non-existent bug but to zap him quickly when he does arrive. The decision is yours.

This article is not meant to give the impression that you should live in constant fear of insects on your violets. Never! The exact opposite is intended. A little knowledge is very comforting and allows you to relax and enjoy your hobby to the utmost.

SPRAYS & DRENCHES

Insecticides are applied in two ways. They may be used as sprays or as drenches. Sprays are applied to the foliage as a fine mist or fog, wetting tops and undersides of foliage. Empty Fantastik bottles make excellent sprayers. The pressurized spray bombs will control aphids or leaf mealy bugs but are not strong enough to kill the tougher mites or blossom thrips.

Drenches are applied to the soil which should be slightly damp before the drench is applied. It is watered in as you regularly water your plants, making sure that you thoroughly wet all the soil in the pot. Any excess in the saucer can be emptied.

Drenches are always a weaker solution than sprays and not all sprays can be used as a drench. Kelthane, Malathion 50%, Cygon 2E (dimethoate) and Orthene are effective as sprays. Cygon 2E is also used as a drench.

CONTACTS & SYSTEMICS

Insecticides kill in two ways - by contact and by stomach poisoning materials called systemics. As the word implies, the contact insecticide kills the insects it touches. A follow up treatment is always needed to kill the insects that hatch later on, usually in less than a week.

Systemics are added to the water and are absorbed by the plant roots and foliage and kill the insects that feed on them. The effect is slower than by contact because it may take a week for the plant to absorb enough poison to kill. However, the plant retains the insecticide and is, thus, protected up to 4 or 5 months.

Systemics are usually applied as drenches and contact insecticides as sprays. Kelthane, Malathion and Orthene kill by contact, while Cygon 2E kills both by contact and as a systemic.

State laws vary and not all the products mentioned may be available in your area. Check with your local County Extension Service.

The following chart is meant to be a general guide in identifying the "critter" and getting rid of it. There are so many materials on the market that it is difficult to select the best. New products are always coming out, old ones are forbidden and you find you can't buy what worked last year. Other growers might prefer other products. These have been proven effective have few side effects and are comparatively safe to use at home. With diligence and a little luck you will never need them anyway.



THE FLOWER-LOVER

(From The Council News (California)' courtesy of Betty Jo Trimble (AKA "Bjo") of Los Angeles)

If you have articles, pictures or slides to be printed in the Magazine, send them to the Editor, NOT to the Knoxville office!

INSECT OR DISEASE	SYMPTOMS	SOURCES OF INFECTION	TREATMENT (In order of preference)
CYCLAMEN MITE	Insect too small to be visible attacks center. Leaves are gray, hard, twisted. Blossoms are deformed and streaked.	Other infested plants, hands, pets, clothes, flies. Can blow in windows. Spreads faster in warm conditions. Spreads easily when violets touch.	Spray with Kelthane, Orthene, Cygon, or Malathion every 5-7 days several times. Follow with Cygon drench, twice, a week apart, every 4 months.
BLOSSOM THRIP	Insect attacks pollen sacs of blossoms, which seem small, dry early & spill pollen. Close look shows threadlike 1/8 inch thrips on blossoms.	Other infested plants. Spread when plants touch, by hands or watering pot. They also jump.	Pick all blossoms. Spray with Othene, Cygon or Malathion every 7-8 days several times.
APHIDS	Small soft insect sucks on plant foliage. Lives in crevices and drops litter on leaves	Other infested plants. They fly when a plant gets crowded.	Malathion, spray bomb.
LEAF MEALY BUG	Insects attack leaves & petioles. White cottony puffs on leaf backs, along stems and in crevices.	Other infested plants. Spread by contact.	Spray with Malathion, Cygon or bomb.
SOIL MEALY BUG (Pritchard)	Insect feeds on fine roots. Plant shows wilt, lack of vigor, eventually rots. Look for 1/16 inch white "rice" grains on root ball and around plant neck.	Other infested plants. Spread by touching soil and common watering without saucers. Will travel over wet surfaces.	Cygon drench plus a drop of detergent. Repeat twice more, ten days apart. Then repeat twice every 4 months.
NEMATODES	Worm lives in main roots. Plant shows wilt, lack of vigor. Look for lumps along main roots.	Other infested plants and from unsterilized soil. Spread by touching soil & common watering. Travels over wet surfaces.	Discard badly infested plants. Treat all others with Cygon drench. Repeat several times. Sterilize soil.
SPRING-TAILS	Threadlike worm jumping around on soil or in saucer when you water.	Unsterilized soil. Not very harmful but unpleasant and undesirable.	Clorox drench. Repeat as needed.
CROWN ROT	Disease attacks roots. Plant wilts, lacks vigor and rots as roots die.	Unsterilized soil. Poor, heavy soil that seals out oxygen. Overwatering. Root nematodes or soil mealy bugs.	Sterilize soil. Add Fermate fungicide to soil mix - 1 T/bushel soil. Use coarse, porous soil.
MILDEW	Disease attacks flowers & stems. White powdery fuzz on blossoms and petioles. Flowers small & drop or dry early.	Caused by air borne spore. Aided by high humidity, a drop in temperature and poor ventilation.	Dust lightly over and around plants once a week with Phaltan (Ortho Rose Dust) or spray with Benlate or Karathane. Use ventilating fan.

SPRAY DILUTIONS

Kelthane (Emulsifiable Concentrate)-
 ¼ tsp/quart
 Cygon 2E (dimethoate)-¼ tsp/quart
 Malathion 50% - ¼ tsp/quart
 Karathane - ¼ tsp/quart
 Benlate (benomyl) - ½ tsp/quart
 Orthene - ¼ tsp/quart

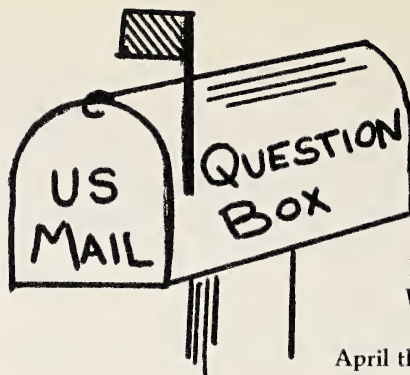
DRENCH DILUTIONS

Cygon 2E - ½ tsp/gallon
 Clorox - ¼ tsp/quart

tsp - one teaspoon
 T - one tablespoon



Mrs. C. S. Hawley
2432 Nottingham Rd.
Columbus, OH 43211
November thru March



P. O. Box 154
W. Southport,
Maine 04576
April thru November

The African Violet Hobby, I have learned, has a side effect which grows and encircles it with equal vigor. The tender loving care, which is given so abundantly to our plants, multiplies and spreads to the people around us and, like the proverbial grain of mustard seed, performs miracles in friendships. I became increasingly aware of this as the Austin Convention Days progressed. To each and every one of you who sought and reached me in one way or another; in kindness, in encouragement or just from interest in my hybrids, I would like to say, "Thank you, my friends!"

Most of the questions this time came to me through Anne Tinari and at this point I must express my deepest appreciation to her for the help, advice and support which she has given me during these three months when the Question Box was in transition. To those of you who wrote to me directly, it was like receiving an added vote of confidence, not only for me but also to Gene Garner, our President, and Grace Foote, our Editor of the Magazine, for they persuaded me to take this post. For me, the "Question Box" has already been a delightful experience. I have learned a great deal and I hope that this has been passed along to you in a helpful manner.

Question: I changed my potting soil the last time and used a new recipe which I read in the African Violet Magazine. It calls for the same amount of peat moss as vermiculite and perlite. I never have had so much trouble with crown rot. Every time I water them I have to throw some away. I always set my pots in water when watering them until they get started good and then I water from the top. I don't believe that I leave them in longer than 4 or 5 hours. Sometimes they get drier than I want them to be before I water. Could it be that I made a mistake in adding a little extra peat to this mix? Is this addition causing the soil to hold too much water?

Answer: Sphagnum peat moss mixed with vermiculite and perlite makes an excellent growing medium for violets but I prefer a heavier proportion of peat. The 1-1-1 mixture is too light in my opinion. It becomes saturated with water too rapidly and then dries out too fast. It seems to me that you are leaving

your plants in the water for too long a period; it does not take long for tiny fungus spores to activate in soil that is saturated with water. It then spreads like wildfire especially if these plants are watered in community trays where such organisms can travel from plant to plant through standing water. Once infected these trays or pans will remain contaminated following their use unless they are soaked in a solution of 1½ cups of Clorox to a gallon of water. Also, as an extra precaution, be careful not to handle other plants after you have handled diseased ones until you have washed your hands in a strong detergent. Unknowingly, one can transport diseases and insects on the hands.

I prefer to water newly transplanted plantlets by Nature's method; from the top. This requires close attention in order to know when they show need and that they have not become too dry. If a fertilizer is used when watering and the plants have become quite dry, there is danger of burning the tender little roots and crown rot will be the result.

Captan is a very good all-purpose fungicide and using a solution of 2 teaspoons to one gallon of water as a drench the first time that you water your new little plants should help prevent a spread of fungi.

I have learned from experience that when we deviate from our present growing practices to try something different, we also must make some adjustments in our customary habits.

Question: As a novice African violet enthusiast I need help concerning fertilization. I give my plant Peter's at ¼ teaspoon to a gallon of water with every watering and have excellent results. I have read, though, that violets should go into a rest period for the summer and not be fed. Is this true, and if so, when should I stop in the spring and then start in the fall? Also I would like to know if there is a sure fire way of telling the start of a sucker from the start of a bloom. I know that I cut off some blooms early in my hobby days and now the suckers get away from me as I am afraid to cut them too soon. Speaking of suckers, what a sucker one can become over African violets!

Answer: Thanks for the chuckle over the "People

Suckers"! There is no reason whatsoever why you cannot let your violets bloom at any time and all the time. With good growing habits they will bloom constantly without damaging the plants. Just be sure to remove all spent blossoms and stems; if old blossoms fall onto the leaves there is a possibility that a botrytis infection could develop and spread. In the September issue of the African Violet Magazine on page 45 you will find the definition of a sucker. Before you remove little plantlets that show themselves along the stem make very sure that they have developed four tiny leaves and that there is no sign of a bud on them. Then, and then only, should they be removed. Removing them keeps the plants in good symmetrical condition and keeps the strength in the main stem. It is very frustrating to remove what one thinks is a sucker only to find that there is a tiny little bud coming. You do need very good light to detect them.

Question: What is the best way to clean clay flower pots and their saucers that have fertilizer salts on them? Would using brown vinegar full strength work?

Answer: Keeping pots clean and sterile is an important rule in growing African violets successfully. Clay pots should be washed in two separate solutions. The first one is a Clorox solution; this is done to kill any disease organisms which might be present on the pots. Soaking them in a solution of 1½ cups of Clorox to one gallon of water overnight is the common practice. The second washing is for the removal of any fertilizer salts which still remain on the pots; soaking them for another 24 hours in a solution of 2 cups of vinegar to one gallon of water should be sufficient to remove all this residue. When this is done, place them on clean towels to drain and air. They should be ready to use the next day.

Question: I have a violet problem that bothers me. My plants seem to get spotted on the outer leaves; these spots are yellow and sometime look rusty. I am sending you two leaves so that you can see just what they look like. I have baby plants coming along and would like to prevent this happening to them. I dread to use the poison sprays but I do use Isotox several times a year. You come out with the most beautiful violets. I have several and have tried to find 'Cheery Roses' but with no success. It is so beautiful!

Answer: I appreciate the care with which you packed your spotted leaves; by wrapping the stems with moistened cotton and carefully packing them in a small box to which your letter was attached, they arrived in excellent condition for examination. I have seen leaves which resembled yours in appearance at our greenhouses. They were the result of a too heavy

application of systemic poisons. This caused a toxic soil condition. It is possible that your Isotox drench could have done this over a period of time also. It will take a long time for a plant to grow out of this condition and so to quicken the results I would recommend that you repot them, removing as much of the soil as possible without disturbing the roots. The ingredients which are most needed at this moment are a good fresh soil mix and lots and lots of patience. The condition of those outer leaves will never change and so they should be removed as soon as roots are established well enough to support the plant without them. You are right in dreading the poison sprays. Continue to be so. Thank you for your kind words about my hybrids. The picture of 'Cheery Roses' in the June 1975 issue of the Magazine also impressed me. It was lovely. I wish that it was mine but it is not!

Question: The water in some of the cake pans I am using as reservoirs for my wicked small plants turns reddish due to the pans rusting in a one-month period. Is rusty water harmful to African violets? Are Teflon and other non-stick coatings that are applied to cake pans, which might be used as reservoirs for wicked violets harmful in themselves to plants? Is there any danger of chemical fertilizers or insecticides re-acting with such coatings to create poisonous situations?

Answer: The rusty water from the cake pans which you use as wicking receptacles will not be harmful if the water which you use is alkaline and iron free; in fact, it would be helpful in lowering the pH. But if the water is normal and its pH is neutral then the small amount of iron which could be absorbed into the roots would be harmful. Teflon, as long as it does not become scratched would be ideal for this use. It is impervious to any chemical and nothing seems to adhere to it.

Question: What is the proper method for leaching wicked potted plants? How often should leaching be done? Can systemic insecticides such as Isotox be mixed with fertilizer solutions in reservoirs for the preventive treatment of wicked plantlets and older plants?

Answer: In leaching your wicked violets I would suggest that you remove them from the reservoirs, let them drain for a little while and then water them well two or three times with clear water, letting them drain into a separate container. Do not permit the plants to stand in this residual water; pour it off immediately. If this is not done, those excess salts which you have flushed out will again be absorbed into the soil and harm the roots. As soon as the plants have properly drained it is time to replace them back into the reservoirs once again. This procedure should be

done at least every six weeks, in my opinion.

The very thought of an insect spray such as Isotox being used in solution with fertilizers and left standing in an open container sends shivers of horror up and down my spine. Isotox is a combination of Meta-systox, Sevin and Kelthane and these are all very toxic substances. Used in this manner there is too much chance for an accidental spill with subsequent body contact. I certainly would not recommend this procedure under any circumstances.

Question: Could you please explain the difference between Dolomite lime and Garden lime? Can they be used interchangeably in preparing potting soil? Also, every winter many of my plants become covered with powdery mildew. Our thermostat is turned down to 65 degrees and my humidity gauge reads between 30-40 percent. What factor plays a major part in the development of powdery mildew; temperature or air circulation? Also, is powdery mildew a spore and therefore always present to contaminate my plants during the winter months?

Answer: Your term "Garden Lime", I presume, is referring to the powdered hydrated lime. This product contains calcium hydroxide and works quickly on the soil. For this reason it is not recommended for use in violet mixes. Its fast action can release stored nutrients, that are in the soil, too quickly and consequently damage the tiny and very susceptible feeder roots of the plant. Dolomite lime is a ground limestone of high quality. I have been told by a very knowledgeable nurseryman that it contains more calcium and magnesium than any other ground limestone. It is more expensive than the other but it can be purchased in small quantities from a number of violet supply companies which advertise in the African Violet Magazine. Ground limestone is added to the soil for the purpose of raising the pH and because the action is slower there is very little chance of root damage.

Temperature and air circulation both are factors in the development of powdery mildew. In cool temperatures, or when they drop suddenly, moisture will form on the leaves of the plants and unless a good circulation of air is present for evaporation to take place, the damp leaves and flower stems are open to attack by the tiny mildew spores which are ever-present. I use a small inexpensive spray gun filled with regular garden sulphur to spread a very, very light dust over my plants, and into the air, when such environmental factors as cool temperatures and poor air circulation are present. It must be used with caution; however, because too heavy an application can damage the blossoms of the plants. It is very effective when used correctly. Repeat the dusting every ten days to two weeks until warmer temperatures and drier air are available. After applying it, be sure to

immediately wash your hands and face; if sulphur dust gets into the eyes it will burn and cause discomfort for several hours.

Quid Pro Quo

This section of Anne's column was always referred to as "TIPS". These exchanges of ideas have been most helpful to the readers and so let us continue. It can become a very important part of "The Question Box". Any comment from you, which is a follow-through on certain answers in the column, will be welcomed. If it seems appropriate and helpful you will read it in the "QUID PRO QUO".

Tip 1: In the January 1978 issue of the African Violet Magazine, Volume 31, Number 1, I would like to comment on "Tip-2" concerning highly chlorinated water supplies. I draw up a gallon of water and add DE-chlor (sometimes called Anti-Chlor, used in fish aquariums) to remove the chlorine from the water before watering my violets. Be careful to use DE-chlor according to directions on the bottle. I have also drawn up water and let it stand for 24 hours to let it dissipate before using it. I have used this method for 10 years and have never lost a violet due to chlorine in the water.

Tip 2: In the March African Violet Magazine there was mention of propagating plants from blossom stems. I have Granger's "Red Flame", which produces flowers up to 2½ inches across, usually 2 to a stem. They are accompanied by a pair of small leaves; after the flowers had fallen I rooted the stems last summer. They rooted readily, producing plantlets from the roots. They were rooted in open containers set on a screen porch (there is high humidity here in Florida). The medium was one inch violet soil and three inches vermiculite — the roots go down into the soil. These plants are blooming now. The only advantage would be that the stems are a plentiful source of rooting material.

Tip 3: (Editorial Comment by Q.B. Editor) In the March Question Box Anne answered a question concerning springtails. I have received two comments in reply to this and both of them recommended a Chlordane drench to eradicate them from the soil. I feel compelled, at this point, to explain that this product is under very strict Federal Government regulations because it is poisonous to humans and has a residual effect in the soil. It is only available, as far as I can learn, to those persons who are licensed to use toxic pesticides and even then it can be used only for certain pests and this list does not include springtails. Its use under any other circumstance can result in very

stiff penalties.

Sterilizing the soil, as Anne advised is the best way to prevent them but occasionally they do appear. Ruth Carey in "The Judges Handbook" recommends a soil drench of one tablespoon of Clorox in one quart of water. I have used this, as have many others, to rid the soil of these hopping wiggly pests with good results. Anne also told us that unless the infestation becomes acute they do not harm the plant. I can only add that most of us would rather not have those "Creepy Crawlies" keeping company with the roots of our plants.

This is all for this time, folks! We will be at our summer home in Maine until October 10th. After that time you will be able to write to me at our Columbus address. Until then my mail box is always ready to receive your questions here.

Lesson in Disbudding

Mark! You're Terrific!

*Adeline Krogman
1325 Parkway Drive
Brookfield, WI 53005*

When is an African violet called terrific? Although it's been said many times, many ways — and of many violets, 'Mark' has surpassed any plant I have ever grown.

There it stood at the St. Louis AVSA Convention Show, an outstanding blue ribbon, award winning beauty which attracted much attention. After being brought home—a bit bedraggled from its traveling and exhibiting experience—I decided to remove all of its 75 or more blossoms and buds. I also removed the outer layer of leaves and potted it in new soil and a large 6" pot, hoping to enter it in our Wisconsin state show in October.

Conscientiously I disbudded it for 5 or 6 weeks, when through neglect for a short time, I was amazed to see that my 'Mark' was coming into heavy bud. It was the beginning of July and far too early for the October show. What to do? Should I take a chance and disbud again or not? What a shame to remove all those buds from a nearly perfect violet specimen plant?

Suffering from nostalgia and sheer frustration, I snipped bloom stem after bloom stem with 6 to 12 buds on each stem. I just had to count them. There were so many. There were 95 buds (potential blooms) all lying in a heap, ready for the waste basket. My heart sank as I thought of the possibility that 'Mark' would possibly be a "no show" plant. I may even have uttered words or the threat that "You

better come through for the fall show or else."

Two weeks passed by and 'Mark' was budding again. Too early for show, I took them off again and again until the beginning of August, allowing the 8 week average disbudding time for 'Mark' to make the October 6th show.

Within six weeks (2 full weeks before the show) Mark was in full bloom with 80 or 90 full open blooms, even though I had set it on the basement floor to keep it cool and hold back on its blooming. (Under light, of course)

Soon came the hour of reckoning. I had to start picking off the spent blooms (often imbedded in a cluster of fresh open blooms). At each such painful ordeal I laid the spent blooms aside and counted them, recording my losses and casting disdainful glances at 'Mark' while questioning what will be left at show time? Would you believe that I actually snipped 125 spent blooms from this plant in the two weeks prior to the show?

Although 'Mark' was no longer in prime condition, I took my pet plant to the show where it was awarded a blue ribbon and a Blue Rosette with more than 60 open blooms and more buds to open. This brought the total number of buds produced by Mark in a six-month period to more than 350.

In the 25 years that I have been in a commercial member of AVSA and have grown more than 3,000 varieties, I have never had any variety as prolific as this dark red, pointed petaled, terrific double hybrid originated by Maas.

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Winnie Money

Mrs. Winnie Money, 93, went to her heavenly home on March 3, 1978. She was a charter member of the Friendship AVS of Bonham, TX, which was organized March 1962. She served as president and later as historian and on several committees.

Mrs. Ed (Mildred) Deckman

The Montgomery AVS was saddened by the death of one of its beloved members, Mrs. Ed (Mildred) Deckman, on March 15, 1978. She had lived in Alabama about five years, having previously lived in New York and Florida.

Soon after coming to Montgomery, she became a member of our club and served our club faithfully. She will be missed by all the club members. She is survived by her husband, Ed, and a number of nieces, nephews and a host of friends.

Judges' Workshop Information

Ruth G. Carey
3900 Garden
Knoxville, TN 37918

Changes in rules for the 1978 Handbook are found on pages 8, 27, 28, 29, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 100, 101, and 103.

At the AVSA Executive board meeting during the 1977 St. Louis convention I gave the copyright of my Handbook, including all material they might want to use to AVSA, which was accepted by the board members.

The board members also voted for me to make all rule changes that had been approved since the 1975 Handbook was printed, using my prepared copy for a new printing, thus eliminating the expense of having this done by another printer.

The 1978 Handbook has been available since early in February. The price remains the same \$3.00. Make checks payable to AVSA and send orders to the African Violet Society of America, Inc. P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, 37901.

Every judge, exhibitor and AVSA member should always have one of the latest revisions.

The section on Shows & Judges will not be printed in the AVS magazine. This will make approximately 8 pages available for other information.

The Handbook (now the property of AVSA) includes all this information. All rule changes approved by the Executive board will be printed in the magazine following the convention each year. The page number where to insert the changes in Handbook will be given, so you can keep it up-to-date until the next revision is printed.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Q. When two or more affiliates sponsor a joint show which group should have the blue and green rosettes?
A. This is a decision for the sponsoring groups to decide.
2. Q. Explain the new ruling "G" on top of Handbook page 72.
A. The new part of "G" in last sentence "except that State, Council or Regional groups may also apply for all AVSA awards once during each calendar year." Affiliate club members can participate in a show sponsored by a Council, Regional or State organization even though they have had an individual show during the year.
3. Q. Are non-members of the sponsoring groups who are AVSA members permitted to exhibit in the show and their ribbons counted toward the

total?

A. Handbook page 73 A 3: All sponsors must be AVSA members Pages 74 6c, and 75 3a "All ribbons awarded to AVSA members and non-members shall be counted." Non-members refers to those who are not AVSA members, but individual members of one of the sponsoring groups that is an AVSA Affiliate.

4. Q. Explain the question "In which class shall a terrarium be entered?"
A. The correct answer should be in the terrarium class and not the design division. The design division includes two sections, consisting of plantings and arrangements. One section has classes for plantings and one for arrangements.
5. Q. Are Lifetime judges attending a judging school permitted to write the examination?
A. No, their grades are not recorded. It is beneficial for them to audit the school. There is one exception, if they have failed to make the required grade. See Handbook page 101 7b and c.
6. When the petiole of a plant is resting on the edge of the pot, is that considered a support?
A. No, it might indicate lack of substance, proper light, under potted or other poor cultural care. Deduct points under condition.
- 7A Q. Should classes in the arrangement section be permitted to include such as "A mobile using dried blossoms?"
A. Handbook page 55 - Arrangements - "In arrangements only cut plant material can be used unless otherwise stated in the schedule." AVSA does not have a scale of points for judging mobiles. National Council scale of points "Expressive with a title" should be used:

Movement — 20 points
Design — 30 points
Color harmony — 15 points
Distinction — 15 points
Expression — 20 points
 100 points
- Top of page 60 Handbook - rule permits local shows to use National Council scale of points for judging classes in the Design Division for which AVSA does not have a scale.
- 7B Q. Should a class "Using a whole plant (s) be used in the arrangement section of a show? The rule in the schedule states "A whole plant(s)

must be used and cut African violet blooms and/or whole plant(s) may be used."

A. This rule should be more specific. Depending on how the exhibitor used the material it might possibly be interpreted to be classified as a planting.

- 7C Q. Should AVSA judges who are also National Council Flower Show judges refuse to use the merit method in judging entries in the design division?

A. No, the judges should use the method that the show management instructs them to use.

8. Q. In judging a show for the Green rosette should brown paper be used to cover the tables since the room was in beige tones? The Judges thought we should have used table cloths or more frills.

A. The cloth covers give a softer appearance as paper is stiff and would not hang as gracefully and would be easily torn. My idea of a frilly cover for entry tables might detract from the overall appearance, such as according to the way they are used and what is used. It would depend on just what the judges had in mind when they referred to frills. In my opinion neatness and simplicity would add more to the attractiveness and a color that would complement the plants in the overall appearance, than "frills" as the judges expressed it. On page 75 of the Handbook, the scale of points for judging 2d gives 4 points on beauty which is where points would be deducted and possibly on neatness 3c—paper would not be as neat as cloth.

9. Q. Since the newsletters have been discontinued, will you be writing an article for the magazine on questions and answers?

A. Yes, I will, if, when you send questions, the answers used in the article will be sufficient. Sometimes it is not possible to answer each individual letter within a short time.

10. Q. Should the show chairman insist that all judges point score the entries in the AVSA collection class?

A. No, only three judges are required.

11. Q. What should judges do when straws or picks are found in plants?

A. Deduct points under condition.

12. Q. If you have a plant that is not blooming true to variety, is this considered a sport or should it be listed in the proper category such as Granger's Peppermint (variegated foliage)?

A. I would enter it in the proper class, that of variegated foliage. Handbook page 22 rule: Plants that are not true to variety, deduct points.

- 12A Q. When awards are to be given for such as best

miniature, best variegated foliage, best double white, etc., how should these plants be selected?

A. The award information should specify the classes or class from which the winners should be selected.

13. Q. Should a terrarium entry be disqualified that consists of tropical, cactus, and African plants, because it contained these different types of plants?

A. I would have deducted points (assuming this is the reason for disqualification) under suitability of material. It should not have been disqualified for this reason.

14. Q. Can a plant be entered in a show that is on a hybridizer's list but not in the Master list?

A. Such plants are permitted to be entered in shows.

15. Q. Should an associate member be counted in the total number of active members in evaluating for the Standard Show award?

A. Any member who pays dues should be counted as a member when applying for the Standard Show Green rosette.

16. Q. Is it compulsory that all entries in the artistic division be made by our club members?

A. All entries in the design division should be the work of the exhibitors who are members. Design exhibits should always be executed by the exhibitor and always entered in the name of that exhibitor.

17. Q. Should ribbons won by exhibitors who are not members of any club be counted? Should ribbons be counted won by novice non-members?

A. They should not be counted in scoring for the SSA rosette. Count ribbons won by novices only if they are members of one of the sponsoring groups.

19. Q. Do the same rules apply to affiliates in all states that apply for the green rosette?

A. All AVSA affiliates regardless of which state or country they live in, and that apply for any AVSA award are required to follow the same rules.

20. Q. Is it necessary to include arrangements in the design division of an affiliate sponsored show or can it consist of only artistic plants?

A. Some arrangements must be included in the schedule (Handbook page 55 - first sentence), also on (page 74 6b, "at least 2/3 horticulture) which leaves no more than 1/3 for design entries.

21. Q. Can a seedling be named "Best in Show"?

A. A seedling is judged by a scale of points just for seedlings. It could be named the best seedling in the show, but not the best in show, unless the

schedule stated the best in show could be selected from the seedling class. I would not recommend that a seedling be selected as the best in show. Why not the best seedling, and then also have the best in show to be selected from other classes in the show?

22. Q. Are judges who apply for a lifetime certificate required to attend at least 2 of the 3 schools taught by different teachers?

A. No, all 3 schools they attend may be taught by the same teacher. It is always good to attend schools, if possible, that are taught by different teachers.

23. Q. May the required grade of 85 or above be received any time during the six-year period to have been a judge?

A. Yes, there is no time as to when they attend the schools, only that they keep their certificates in good standing.

24. Q. Where can judges get more judging information on other gesneriads?

A. Join the American Gloxinia & Gesneriad Society, Inc.

25. Q. Why should the names of the judges be withheld until after a show is judged? How strongly should this be enforced?

A. This is a common practice not a rule. It is not compulsory that it be followed. Prior to the show, some exhibitors have been known to contact judges who have been invited to judge, giving them information on some exhibit they plan to enter, or asking advice about using certain plant materials. This is especially true in the design division.

26. Q. If the cover is removed from a terrarium, does it then become a dish garden and entered in a class for terrariums?

A. No, it would not become a dish garden. If not covered at the time of judging it is possible that points would be deducted.

27. Q. If a show schedule has a class for Geneva blossoms and one for variegated foliage plants, which class should plants with both Geneva blossoms and with foliage be entered?

A. I suggest the following classes in the schedule:

Section I Variegated foliage

Class 1. Standard varieties, any type or color of blossom

Section II Miniature (single or double blossoms, including variegated foliage)

Class 2 have as many classes as you need according to the color of blossoms

Section III Semiminiature (single or double blossoms, including variegated foliage)

Class 3 Follow with as many color classes as

you like

A good example is the way I wrote the schedule for the Austin, Texas convention show.

28. Q. Would the exhibitor choose which class they wish to enter the plants in question above?

A. The exhibitor does not make this decision. The classification does.

MOON PLANTING

By Em Hunt

(All times are Central Standard)

SEPTEMBER

Fruitful:

Sept. 6, 9:39 am to Sept. 8, 3:40 pm.

Sept. 14, 10:10 pm to Sept. 16, 1:02 pm.

Sept. 23, 11:08 pm to Sept. 26, 10:12 pm.

Semifruitful:

Sept. 4, 1:16 am to Sept. 6, 9:30 am.

Sept. 10, 7:20 pm to Sept. 12, 9:09 pm.

Sept. 19, 3:44 am to Sept. 21, 10:57 am.

OCTOBER

Fruitful:

Oct. 3, 3:49 pm to Oct. 5, 9:07 pm

Oct. 12, 6:13 am to Oct. 14, 9:07 am.

Oct. 21, 5:53 am to Oct. 23, 6:05 pm.

Semifruitful:

Oct. 2, 12:41 am to Oct. 3, 3:49 pm.

Oct. 8, 12:53 am to Oct. 10, 3:43 am.

Oct. 16, 1:23 pm to Oct. 18, 8:06 pm.

NOVEMBER

Fruitful:

Nov. 8, 12:07 pm to Nov. 10, 4:12 pm.

Nov. 17, 2:17 pm to Nov. 20, 2:10 am.

Nov. 27, 9:39 am to Nov. 29, 1:24 pm.

Semifruitful:

Nov. 4, 6:41 am to Nov. 6, 9:04 am.

Nov. 12, 9:36 pm to Nov. 15, 4:45 am.

DECEMBER

Fruitful:

Dec. 5, 5:37 pm to Dec. 7, 9:40 pm.

Dec. 14, 9:50 pm to Dec. 17, 9:38 am.

Dec. 24, 7:33 pm to Dec. 27, 12:08 am.

Semifruitful:

Dec. 10, 3:51 am to Dec. 12, 11:55 am.

Dec. 29, 1:37 pm to Dec. 31, 12:54 am.

If you failed to get your MAGAZINE, notify the Knoxville office. NOT the Editor, who does not keep magazine copies on hand.

STAND UP AND BE COUNTED!

*Anne Tinari
2325 Valley Road
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006*

The Austin Convention is now history, but will be enumerated as another successful convention. Our 32nd Convention will never be forgotten. The show room in all its splendor comes back vividly to haunt us with such exquisite beauty. Those beautiful show plants, the excitement of the arrangement classes, so many new and innovative ideas carried out to perfection. The look of ecstasy that comes over ribbon placed carefully near their entry, it is not uncommon to hear a small scream or a loud yelp for joy! The commercial tables placed nearly around the room, even the display signs done by our hosts in shades of lavender and pink were so attractive and well-done.

Frank and I are starting the journey home with the group that attended from Philadelphia, as the noisy plane engines start and the big plane surges forward I sit back quietly, pen-in-hand to write down fond memories I shall refer to at a future time. Strange, how suddenly everyone becomes so quiet, the homeward journey is a time of reflection for a storehouse of ideas that have been absorbed to be used later or at least given fair experiment.

A favorite thought reoccurs repeatedly: the memory of that last banquet. The meal is finished and our President brings down the gavel for members to come to order. One of the first duties she performs is to pose the magic statement, "If this is your first convention, please stand up." There is a quick shuffling of chairs as those eager young faces stand up straight and tall. They are followed by the more seasoned members who have looked forward so long for an opportunity to rise to this call. There is a great deal of flourish, stirring and clapping as the roll is called for succeeding convention attendance.

Examine for a moment the meaning of all this. These new young enthusiastic growers (for surely most members are in this category) are our hope and future of tomorrow. Consider their contagious enthusiasm and one can surely envision their future contribution to our beloved society.

The more seasoned members are the faithful ones who appear at every workshop, every meeting pen-in-hand to record and bring back to their local club, chapter or council the many details that unfold. They are the camera-carrying individuals who may be responsible for some future convention. Nothing is missed, all is carefully observed from the cookies in the hospitality room to the attractive handmade favors on the tables and all the minute details in between.

Remember your first convention? Mine was the

first in 1947 and its memory will live with me forever, but I must confess each succeeding convention seems to hold the same thrill and excitement I first experienced. We have come a long way, but I still marvel at the feeling of meeting all the people we had corresponded with who suddenly were no longer names, but warm friendly interesting individuals.

Some of the basic requirements that add to the personal enjoyment of any convention is the ability to attend with an open mind, ready to listen to each and every growing method revealed, not necessarily to change your own tried and tested favorite method, but you may benefit by listening carefully to compare and improve with any suggestions or tips you may have gleaned. Attend the workshops, they are a living working experience, strive to take legible notes so you can refer to them later, if you are invited to ask questions at the end of the workshop programs, make them short and to the point. Long detailed questions are unpopular and time is precious. Organize your schedule and allot time to move from one workshop to the next with ease.

The opening of the showroom and your first glance at the assembled beauty is the highlight of any convention. One tries to move swiftly for this long-awaited moment, to capture the overall beauty. Time enough to sneak back later and carefully write down all the new cultivars that interest you. Seeing them displayed for the first time is a breath-taking experience. You almost wish time would stand still for a few brief hours and allow you to be alone to digest it all.

Time is all too short for beyond the showroom is a bee hive of activity, the sales area, where one can get carried away with plant purchases, light set-ups, attractive violet accessories and fine china and jewelry with beautiful violet motif.

As our plane comes down out of the soft white clouds to meet the vivid green landscape of our beautiful Pennsylvania hills and verdant green valleys, my heart is glad to be back home but there remains a joyous reflection of bountiful Blue Bonnets, the wild Morning Glory and the true Texas hospitality. With the fond goodbys of cherished friendships, somehow I find it difficult to say goodbye 'You All'.

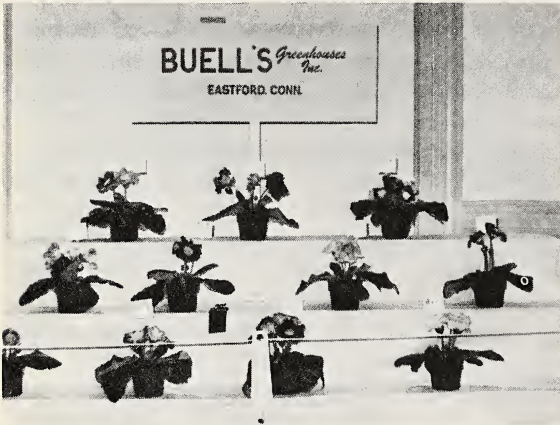
But wait, here in my pocket while we wait for the cab home I have gathered literature to be gleaned for our next convention. "Hello Colorado", tall and terrific, a year to get ready and God willing we shall meet again.



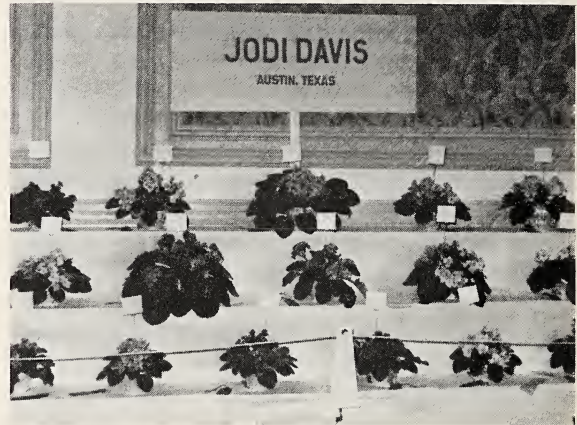
Baker's



Boswell & Barnard



Buell's



Jodi Davis



Hortense's



The House of Violets

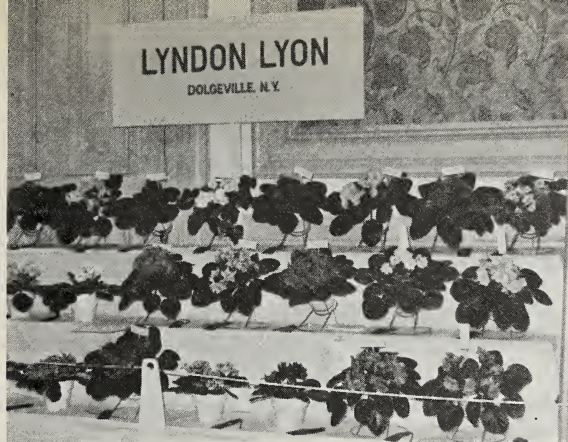
COMMERCIAL DISPLAYS

Highlights and Impressions

By Mrs. Catherine Hawley

The Commercial Displays lined the huge showroom in The Driskill Hotel in Austin, Texas, and with spotlights illuminating each of these thirteen exhibits the Commercial Displays, once again, walked off with the show. A constant line of visitors

and members encircled the room to view and study them. The familiar and better known growers were there with new introductions, as usual; but so too, were some new businesses, many of them operated by young people. This is a phenomena that continues



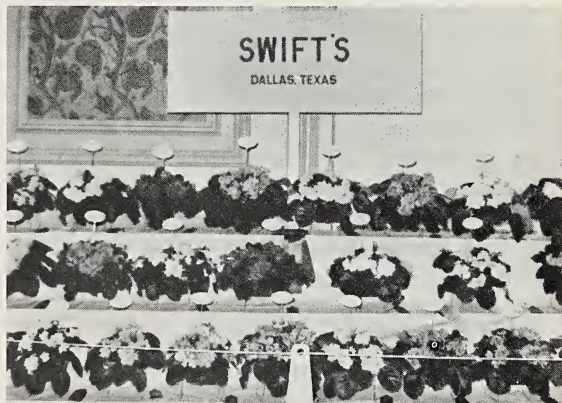
Lyndon Lyon



Ronn Nadeau



Susan's Violets



Swifts'



Tinari Greenhouses



The Violet Shop

to develop and with it new vitality will be injected into the fast growing African Violet World.

There were 25 plants in the majority of the displays and the descriptions and impressions follow in alphabetical order.

BAKER'S AFRICAN VIOLETS

Atlanta, GA

There were 18 blue ribbons in this display.

Best plant: 'Razzle Dazzle'; a seedling; white semidouble with a red frilled edge and light green plain pointed leaves. Two others in the display that



Violets Atlanta

were interesting and should be winners of the future were: 'Queen of Hearts'; a seedling, pink double with a dark red center, and light green plain pointed leaves; 'Bing Cherry' a seedling, rich dark burgundy red bloom with black strawberry ruffled leaves, compact small standard. "Violets with Pizzazz" would be an appropriate description for this display.

BOSWELL & BARNARD

Dallas, TX

In this exhibit, one's eye was quickly drawn to the six very large Gloxinias which were placed on the top tier. The huge trumpet-shaped blossoms seemed to over shadow the African violets in the balance of the display. They are a Dallas strain of this gesneriad. The best plant was F1; Hybrid Gloxinia 'Lavender Beauty' with large purple trumpets with light shadings and huge dark green leaves. My choice in the rest of the display was: 'Fuchsia Velvet', red trumpet shading to a pink with a white edge and huge dark green leaves. Texans certainly grow them big and beautiful.

BUELL'S GREENHOUSES, Inc.

Eastford, CT

This display, which traveled all the way from New England, was not entered for judging but, nevertheless, it attracted much attention from the viewers. There were 11 hybrid Gloxinia seedlings placed in tiers on the table; all of them still unnamed. There were red ones, pink ones and spotted ones with each lovely trumpet extended high above rich, huge leaves. All Gloxinia fanciers must wait expectantly for their christening and let us hope that it will be soon.

JODI DAVIS

Austin, TX

This display won 14 blue ribbons. The best plant was 'Mustang Frolic', a large lavender single with purple center and a hint of an edge. Also worthy of special comment was, 'Driskill', a double dark pink with white edge (different) 'Rhinstone Cowgirl', a pink single with deeper shadings at the tips. These typically named Texas hybrids all had similar dark green quilted and pointed foliage. Jodi Davis grows them "Texas Style"; big and lovely!

HORTENSE'S AFRICAN VIOLETS

San Antonio, TX

This display won 19 blue ribbons. 'Hondo' was the best plant, a dark blue with a white edge and dark green spooned and quilted leaves.

This plant was also the recipient of the Frank Burton Award for the best plant in all the displays. (Class 4) Others were 'Sundown', placed strategically in the center of the display. Its bloom is white with a purple edge and dark green tailored foliage.

There were over 50 blooms on this plant. It was a beautiful focal point for the whole display and a silent tribute to this grower's helpful partner in their

business; her husband for whom the plant is named.

HOUSE OF VIOLETS

Camden, AR

This display won 25 blue ribbons and won the award for the Third Best Commercial Display. Best plant was 'Anthony', a seedling, a very striking pink double; very prolific (50 blooms) and lovely medium green tailored foliage.

Also pleasing to me was 'Bold Charm' a medium blue semidouble with a slight edge; over 50 blossoms on it and some were 3 inches across. The beauty of the blossoms overshadowed the foliage. And then there was 'Bold Dance' a pink double with darker center on strong petioles. It was variegated, with plain leaves; lovely pink shadings.

The Reed's of Camden, AR produce a spectacular display every year with exceptional hybrids.

LYNDON LYON

Dolgeville, NY

This display won 25 blue ribbons. In spite of the great distance which these plants had to travel and the packing necessary for shipping them, Lyndon Lyon was there, as usual, and was one of the top award winners. He was the recipient of the Best New Introduction Award and also received the Silver Bowl for the Best Display Table.

'Coral Radiance' was Best New Introduction with 3-inch semidouble deep coral bloom.

Also impressive with their large blooms were: 'Red Wow' and 'Dynomite', both with striking dark red blooms, and 'Dazzler', a magenta colored semidouble.

The size and color of the blooms over shadowed the dark heart shaped foliage of all of these beauties.

RONN NADEAU

St. Louis, MO

This display won 25 blue ribbons and it tied in scoring for the Second Best Commercial Display. This young man has become very well known in the violet world in a very short length of time.

His best plant was 'Pink Mornstar', light pink true single with darker shadings and dark green tailored leaves.

I was very much impressed with 'Sho-Mee Sendor' a prolific white double with light blue shadings and medium green quilted leaves.

This display was an "eye-catch" with beautiful plants of his previous introductions plus a few new introductions. I particularly liked the beautiful variegated foliage with its pink shadings of 'Ron Star'.

SUSAN'S VIOLETS

Dallas, TX

This display was a good beginning for a very new member. It won 13 blue ribbons.

The best plant was 'Cotton Bowl', a white double;

very prolific, and dark green spooned leaves.

Texans are very lucky people with so many good growers within close driving distances.

SWIFTS'

Dallas, TX

There were 25 blue ribbons plants in this exceptional display and it tied in points scored for the Second Best Commercial Display. It also was the recipient of the New York State Award of Silver for the Best Display in Horticultural Perfection.

Its best plant was 'Texas Prince'; a seedling, with magenta colored double blossoms and medium green quilted leaves.

Worthy of extra mention were 'Charlyne Reed', a light pink two-tone double, large 2½ inches across, with light green quilted foliage.

This was a display of African violets that were almost perfectly grown. I also noticed that they were all in "Moist Right Planters".

TINARI'S GREENHOUSES

Huntingdon Valley, PA

This lovely display from the hills of Pennsylvania received the award for the Fourth Best Commercial Display with 24 blue ribbons. It was also the recipient of the Helen Van Zele Award for the Best Sport or Mutant in the commercial displays; it was "Anne's Favorite Sport", an improved strain of that already popular double pink. Its best plant was 'Seedling TS-19', a double pink with darker shadings and dark green quilted leaves.

Especially noteworthy were three other unnamed seedlings: (1) A magenta colored double with a white edge; (2) A pink single with a slightly ruffled edge; and (3) A lavender pink with a wide white edge (beautiful).

These plants all had very stiff flower stems which support many blooms, each of them on nice dark tailored foliage. These plants show great show potential and, hopefully, they will soon be named and ready for the hobbyist.

VIOLETS ATLANTA

Atlanta, GA

This display won 11 blue ribbons. This business is one of the larger growers in the Southeast.

Its best plant was 'Pink Starlight', a large light pink semidouble star with dark green tailored leaves. There was one red ribbon plant which I liked: 'Do's Quesy', a shell pink star with an occasional crest and dark tailored leaves.

The 'Do's Series' of hybrids are hybridized by Jim Wright and Violets Atlanta are the distributors. The large blooms and good foliage looked very good to me.

THE VIOLET SHOP

Houston, TX

This display with its 5 blue ribbons was unique

among the rest, in that the best plant was a violet trailer instead of the usual standard. It was 'Sweetheart Trailer', a beautifully grown trailer with a profuse amount of pink blooms. Also sharing the spotlight in this display were a lovely plant of 'Sam', a coral with edges of white and plain tailored dark green leaves, and a plant, 'Dancer', a lovely double lavender with purple tips, equally striking.

MORE DISPLAYS

There were more displays than ever before at this convention and within each of them was something to whet the appetite of every hobbyist. Whatever should eventually emerge from the laboratories where, we know, unbelievable miracles are taking place, one cannot deny that these New Introductions which were displayed this year have been genetically engineered for more vigorous growth, large blooms and stronger flower stems to support the heavy cluster of blossoms. Even the new variegated foliage varieties hold their patterns and contain prettier pastel shadings. When Man and Nature join hands as partners, what wonders are wrought! It is no secret why the African violet world is expanding as though jet-propelled.

COMMERCIAL EXHIBITS

Section I of the Commercial Division was open to all Commercial members who did not wish to enter displays. Many of them took advantage of this and entered some lovely plants in the appropriate classes. Winners were:

Cindy's Violetry, Panama City Beach, FL: Silver cup, Best Registered Variety, 'Annie Mae'; Sweepstakes Award, 10 blue ribbons, (Jimmy Watson award); Rienhardt's Award, best specimen plant of 'Top Dollar'.

Cape Cod Violetry of Falmouth, MA: Gold Rosette, (Best AVSA Collection of 3 registered varieties). 'Fredette's Sugar Blues', 'Moby Dick', 'Sandpiper'; the Win Albright Award, also for the above collection; Crestwood Violetry Award, best specimen plant, Geneva edged with 'Fredette's Sugar Blues'.

Humphrey's African Violets, Harrington Park, NJ: Purple Rosette, (Second Best AVSA collection of 3 Registered varieties), 'Night Magic', 'Corpus Christi', 'Allouette' (Fredette); Mrs. Wm. Krogman Award, best specimen plant, double red, 'Mark'.

Heavenly Violets, Trumbull, CT: Helen Van Zele Award, Best seedling, 'Fredette's WC-9'; Helen Van Zele Award, second best seedling, Fredette's 'Geminese'.

Kenneth Froebesse: Crestwood Violetry Award, Best single Specimen plant, 'Dolly Dimples'.

REGISTRATION REPORT



Adele Tretter
4988 Schollmeyer
St. Louis, MO 63109

(NOTE TO REGISTRANTS: The Editor would like to use color slides of your newly registered violets in the Magazine. Use only light backgrounds. Dark slides cannot be reproduced. Send original color slides to Editor with name of plant and name of hybridizer.)

The following registrations have been received during the period from March 1, 1978 through May 31, 1978.

CASTRO (3340) D-B 23 s S 3/16/78
DONNA LEE (3341) L-RX 35 s S 3/16/78
MARIN (3342) OX 35 s S 3/16/78
MENDOCINO (3343) OX 35 sf S 3/16/78
SAN FRANCISCO (3344) D-V 23 s S 3/16/78
Gary R. Beck, 1226 Leavenworth, San Francisco, CA 94109

EMMA LAHR (3345) W 27 sc M 4/1/78
Isla Montgomery, 921 Garfield, Denver, CO 80206

LADY OF LOVE (3346) R 5 s-d L 4/3/78
Mary M. Mahen, 12816 Bourbon Red Dr., Des Peres, MO 63131

BEAU BLUE (3347) L-B 239 S-d L 4/12/78
Rachel M. Pfannstiel, 509 Shady Grove, Montgomery, AL 36109

CASSANDRA (3348) L-P 23 s-d&d S 4/12/78
Irene Fredette, 972 Grassy Hill Rd., Orange, CT 06477

ATLANTIS (3349) M-BX 29 s S 4/22/78
BABY BLUE (3350) L-B 29 d S-M 4/22/78
BALI HAI (3351) P 39 s-df S 4/22/78
FOXY (3352) D-B-V 2 d S 4/22/78
GYPSY DANCER (3353) M-P 2 s-dc L 4/22/78
JOY (3354) O 2 s-d L 4/22/78
MALIBU (3355) L-BX 2 d S 4/22/78
PRIMROSE (3356) M-P 5 s-dfc S 4/22/78
RADIATION (3357) D-PW 59 sf S 4/22/78
ROYAL GARNET (3358) RX 29 s-d S 4/22/78

SIREN (3359) M-RX 2 d S 4/22/78
SKY MAGIC (3360) L-B 2 d S 4/22/78
ZEPHYR (3361) W 2 d S 4/22/78
Wilson Bros., Roachdale, Ind. 46172

CASTLE'S FAIRY TIDE (3362) WO 35 df S 4/24/78

CASTLE'S LAVENDER EDGE (3363) WO-E 3 d S 4/24/78

CASTLE'S LAVENDER PRINCE (3364) D-OW-E 3 d S 4/24/78

CASTLE'S LAVENDER TOUCH (3365) WO 3 d S 4/24/78

CASTLE'S MOON MOTH (3366) W 3 d S 4/24/78

CASTLE'S PURPLE TIDE (3367) L-O 35 df S 4/24/78

CASTLE'S TRUE LAVENDER (3368) OX 59 d S 4/24/78

Verne Fuhlrodt, 614 Castle Rd., Colorado Springs, CO 80904

DAWN CARROLL (3369) D-PX 2 s-dfc L 4/26/78

DESPERADO (3370) DR 23 s-dfc L 4/26/78

CAPTIVA (3371) D-P 23 dfc L 4/26/78

GRENADINA (3372) L-R 239 S-dfc L 4/26/78

LITTLE SEABIRD (3373) W-V 29 s S-M 4/26/78

MAIDEN VOYAGE (3374) OX 5 s L 4/26/78

MARIPOSA (3375) WVC 2 s-d L 4/26/78

NIGHT MOTH (3376) VG-E 5 s-d L 4/26/78

SANIBEL (3377) WR-E 2 s-d L 4/26/78

SEA ROBIN (3378) D-PX 29 sf L 4/26/78

STONEWALL PEACH (3379) L-P 23 dfc L 4/26/78

SUMMER BUTTERFLY (3380) PW-E 239 s-dc L 4/26/78

TEQUILA SUNRISE (3381) D-P 29 sc L 4/26/78
Sandra Leary, 2088 Illinois Ave., NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33703

DO'S JEAN (3382) O 2 dc L 4/26/78

DO'S REALIDO (3383) L-B 39 s-dc L 4/26/78

DO'S SPITFIRE (3384) R 35 s-dc L 4/26/78

Jim Wright, 3482 Misty Valley Rd., Decatur, GA 30032

BLUEBONNET BEAUTY (3385) M-B 5 df L 4/29/78
BLUSH DUCHESS (3386) P 39 d L 4/29/78
CAMDEN BLUE (3387) L-BW 35 df S 4/29/78
FIDDLE FADDLE (3388) P 29 s-d L 4/29/78
GATEWAY CHARMER (3389) R-V 35 d L 4/29/78
HEARTBREAKER (3390) L-P 5 df L 4/29/78
HEART THROB (3391) D-P 35 df L 4/29/78
MANDY LEI (3392) WP 29 s-d L 4/29/78
MELANCHOLY (3393) WO 35 df L 4/29/78
SPELLBOUND (3394) OX 35 df L 4/29/78
STARS OF BLUE (3395) M-B 23 s-d L 4/29/78
WARREN TEE (3396) O 35 d L 4/29/78
 Swifts', P. O. Box 28012, Dallas, TX 75228

LEVITTOWN (3397) M-PG-E 29 d M 5/1/78
 Mrs. Anna Lee, 16 Tinder Lane, Levittown, NY 11756

GRANGER'S ATLANTIS (3398) WB-E 35 s&df L 5/1/78
GRANGER'S BLUE MAGNUM (3399) M-B 29 dfc L 5/1/78
GRANGER'S BLUE NIMBUS (3400) M-BW-E 5 s-dfc L 5/1/78
GRANGER'S BLUE SPARKLER (3401) D-BW-E 35 df L 5/1/78
GRANGER'S CHARMAINE (3402) L-R 29 d S 5/1/78
GRANGER'S CLASSIC PINK (3403) D-PX 29 d L 5/1/78
GRANGER'S DUBONETTE DEB (3404) D-R-V 4 d S 5/1/78
GRANGER'S FIRETHORNE (3405) D-RV 29 d L 5/1/78
GRANGER'S GRENOBLE (3406) L-OX 2 s-d L 5/1/78
GRANGER'S HEARTS DESIRE (3407) BW 35 df L 5/1/78
GRANGER'S MEDALLION BLUE (3408) M-B 2 d S 5/1/78
GRANGER'S MOHAWK (3409) D-RV 2 d S 5/1/78
GRANGER'S PINK SPLENDOR (3410) M-PW-E 239 s-df L 5/1/78
GRANGER'S PURPLE CASCADE (3411) DV 357 df L 5/1/78
GRANGER'S REDHAVEN (3412) D-RV 29 d L 5/1/78
GRANGER'S RIO RITA (3413) WP 23 d L 5/1/78
GRANGER'S ROBERTA (3414) L-O 5df L 5/1/78
GRANGER'S ROSE EMBER (3415) P-OX 29 d L 5/1/78
GRANGER'S STARTLER (3416) WB-E 35 dfc L 5/1/78
GRANGER'S WHITE COCKATOO (3417) WO

23 d S 5/1/78
GRANGER'S WHITE JUBILEE (3418) WB 3 d L 5/1/78
GRANGER'S WONDERLAND (3419) L-B 5 s-df L 5/1/78
 Granger Gardens, Medina, OH 44256

ELVIS PRESLEY (3420) RXG-E 57 d S 5/9/78
MOODY BLUES (3421) M-BW-E 37 d S 5/9/78
SAN SOUCI (3422) O 39 df S 5/9/78
SHOW ME DOGWOOD (3423) L-PX 37 s-d S 5/9/78
 David Buttram, P. O. Box 193, Independence, MO 64051

SAN JOSE SUNRISE (3424) D-RX 2 d S 5/19/78
WESTDALE MIDNIGHT BLUE (3425) D-B 3 s S 5/19/78
 Irene Haseltine, 365 So. Henry Ave., San Jose, CA 95117

MARY'S LOVE (3426) p 38 sc S 5/21/78
 Mary Mahen, 12816 Bourbon Red Dr., Des Peres, MO 63131

MONTGOMERY (3427) R-PW-E 29 d L 5/24/78
SARA LOU (3428) D-B 9 df S 5/24/78
 Montgomery AVS, Mrs. J. Fuller, 3412 S. Perry St., Montgomery, AL 36105

CHINA PINK (3429) L-P 2 s-dfc S 6/1/78
GRAND FINALE (3430) P s -d L 6/1/78
ICY BLUE (3431) L-BG 2 d&s-d S 6/1/78
SNOW ORCHID (3432) WL-P 2 s-d&df S 6/1/78
TIGER (3433) D-BV 7 s-d L 6/1/78
 Irene Fredette, 972 Grassy Hill Rd., Orange, CT 06477

RESERVATIONS

Received during the same period as above.

3/13/78 *LOVE STAR* * *RONSTAR* * *LINSTAR*
 Ronn Nadeau, 48 Queensbrook, Olivette, MO 63132

3/14/78 *BEA BOOTH* Jill Hellmer, 522 Dapin Rd.,
 Madison, WI. 53704

3/20/78 *MICKY BEE* * *SHARON* * *LISA BEE* *
BICKIE BEE * *JENNY BEE* * *KATHY BEE* Howard
 Burns, 4933 West Colonial Ct., Greenfield, WI 53220

4/14/78 *RUSTY'S TRAIL* * *LINDA'S LOVE* *
FLEDGLING * *BIONIC PINK* * *PAULINE JONES*
 Mrs. Charles R. Russell, 278 Maple Valley, Houston,
 TX 77056

4/22/78 JOYFUL STAR * JOYFUL TRIUMPH * JOYFUL MELODY * JOYFUL SPRING * JOYFUL SUNSHINE * PARSON'S SATIN * PARSON'S PERFECTION * PARSON'S SPLENDOR * PARSON'S BLUE EYES * PARSON'S RICKY * PARSON'S QUEEN * PARSON'S PRINCESS * PARSON'S DESIRE Rev. Charles W. Blades, 3917 Island Home Pike, Knoxville, TN 37920

5/1/78 BRAHMS * BEETHOVEN * HANDEL * BRUCKNER * MAHLER * KHACHATURIAN * WAGNER * VERDI * BIZET * VIVALDI * DVORAK * CHOPIN * LISZT * RACHMANINOFF * PACHELBEL * PUCCINI * SHOSTAKOVICH * SCRIABIN * ROSSINI * SCHUMANN * TCHAIKOVSKY * SCHUBERT * BACH * MOZART Boswell and Barnard, 1605 Greenville Ave., Dallas, TX 75206

5/1/78 FIRST NIGHTER Swift's AV, P. O. Box 28012, Dallas, TX 75228

5/6/78 TOGETHER WHITE * PINK PINWHEEL * STAR DWARF * OPEN ARMS * MARTHA MACK Ronn Nadeau, 48 Queensbrook, Olivette, MO 63132

5/7/78 SAMMYE BALLARD Granger Garden's, 1060 Wilbur Rd., Medina, OH

5/20/78 SCREAMIN' DEMON * DRAGON LADY * FLASHFIRE Joan AuBuchon, 7330 Leona St., St. Louis, MO 63116

5/24/78 DELTA STAR * DENVER BELLE * TIZ LOVELY * VELVET TIPS The House of Violets, 936-940 Garland St., S.W., Camden, AR 71701

5/27/78 NELLIE GRACE * PAL JOEY * MARTHA MARTHA * GABRIEL * TARANTELLA * MORNING GLORY * TANGLEWOOD Dori Macomber, 824 Sheridan Ave., Chico, CA 95926

CORRECTIONS

BLUE SPRITE (2725) has been changed to a semiminiature.

ELECT LADY (3250) change to a semidouble.

GLEN HUDSON should be # 3003.

PURE METHANOL should be # 2859.

DELTA DAWN should be # 2821.

TONY should be #2831.

VERN'S BLUE CHIPS should be # 3046.

Please send self addressed and stamped envelope for reply. No postage, no answer.

Seattle AVS Has Booklet

Have you seen the Seattle AVS' newest booklet on "African Violets"?

If you haven't then you really should for it's a whole volume of growing, propagating and showing for beginners and experts. It's the second such booklet to be published by the Seattle AVS on the subject of African violet culture.

According to John Chase Reed, president, "a single handout sheet at our shows was no longer adequate because of the great demand for more detailed horticultural information to answer numerous questions."

Emory Leland, well known Northwest authority and writer on the subject of violets, edited and published this second culture guide. With this book, both the beginner and expert benefit from the success, failure and experience of recognized experts in the field. The booklet is full of illustrations of leaf and blossom types, cross pollination, vacation care, and propagating and almost everything that has to do with African violet culture.

Basic growing requirements are listed and defined, advanced expertise is offered by African violet experts and much information is given concerning shows, fluorescent lighting, insects, pests and diseases, and almost anything else you'd want to know about.

Can You Answer Reader's Problem?

"My violets and my cat are having problems co-existing and I don't want to give up either one", writes Mary K. Chelton, 111 South Highland Avenue, Apt. #3, Ossining, NY 10562.

"I live in an apartment and have an 8-tray lumen lighter which I like a lot. However, to prevent Mac from marching through all the trays and eating my variegates (he prefers Champion's), I now have the entire apparatus draped in a painter's plastic drop cloth. The violets and two sinningias LOVE the excess humidity thus produced, but the result is an aesthetic disaster in the middle of my living room!

"Cat repellent hasn't worked, although I've been repelled a lot, and I'm a crummy seamstress."

"If anyone in a similar situation has found a solution, I would love to hear from them."

So, now, you other AV growers, if you know the answer, please write to Mrs. Chelton.

BEGINNER'S COLUMN

Mrs. J.A.W. (Ann) Richardson
RR #1, Box 70
Tavares, FL 32778



LET'S NECK!

The bottom leaves of an African violet plant are the first to die since they have done their job of providing bloom and supporting the plant. As time goes on, the distance between soil and the first row of leaves gets longer and longer. We call this "a neck" because if the leaves have left stubs the stem of the plant somewhat resembles that of a plucked chicken. If nothing is done about this neck the entire plant could fall over the side of the pot. What's more, the plant will have fewer blossoms and, of course, will look simply awful. Old plants that have not been necked will frequently be in this condition. Sometimes plants with necks will just give up and die. Judges regard a neck as a bad fault and will take off as much as three points for a neck on a show plant.

Aside from the fact that you want a plant that looks nice and blossoms, sometimes you will also have sentimental feelings about a plant. It might be your very favorite or it might have been your mother's and you want to keep it alive and in good condition. If you handle the matter properly you can keep such a plant in good shape forever. There are several ways of going about this.

First—the easy way. Allow plant to become a little bit dry and limp. Knock the plant out of the pot. Wash the pot or use another clean one. Scrape the neck of the plant with a knife as you would a carrot but not too deep — just enough to take the dead stubs off and show the green. If you have not done it before, here is the hard part but take a deep breath and do it. With sharp knife cut part of the bottom root system off, just enough so that when it is put back in the pot the bottom row of leaves will not rest on the rim. Knock off as much of the old soil as possible by squeezing the root ball. Put some soil on the bottom of the pot and then put the plant on top of it. If you find that the plant sits too low, put more soil on the bottom. Then fill in on the sides with soil. Bang the pot lightly on the potting table to settle the soil and fill in the top. You may, if you wish, fill in the area around the neck with vermiculite only. Brush off any soil particles on the leaves and water the plant thoroughly. Then treat the plant as you do your others but do not allow it to dry out until it shows signs of growing lustily again. What happens

is that an entirely new root system will grow where the neck was. The next time you repot, you can cut off the rest of the old system. This can go on and on, always having a nice plant.

The second way is used when the neck is so long that it is not feasible to use the above method. Then, you cut the neck off about an inch below the last row of healthy leaves. If you have it, dip the plant in Rootone and let it rest for about an hour. Then prepare a clean pot with whatever soil or mix you generally use (provided it is porous) and plant the stem in the pot. Wet it and keep it moist until the plant will suddenly spring to life. You will know then that the new root system has begun to function.

With either of these methods if you find that the plant is droopy, put it in a plastic bag with a few small holes in it and devise a method of keeping the leaves from touching the plastic. This will give the plant added humidity until it has regained its strength again.



"Please, Helen, stop talking to it!"

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND

Mrs. L. F. Lidiak
4503 Sinclair Avenue
Austin, TX 78756

During the recent Texas AVSA Convention, Mr. Steve Hampson, Graduate Student, Penn State University was in attendance. He is doing his graduate work under Dr. Richard Craig, and his center of interest is the most intriguing mutation work being performed on African violets in an effort to obtain more disease-resistant plants.

In the Convention Show and Commercial Sales Room area, Mr. Hampson presented a slide-narrated program available to those in attendance. As you will probably remember from past reports, the Penn State work under Dr. Craig's able supervision is being partially sponsored by Boyce Edens Research Funds', so of course, this presentation was of particular interest to the many who have contributed. I only wish each of you could have seen and studied what is being accomplished — it is encouraging.

The new regulations designed to protect the environment as well as the grower's health from potentially dangerous chemicals have made it necessary to remove many of the long-used products from the market place. Because of these actions, the need for plants with greater immunity to insects/fungi/viruses is most vital to the African violet community. It behooves each of us to wish great success to the Penn State project.

Contributions made from February 27, 1978 to May 26, 1978.

(In the event a donor does not wish to have the amount of a gift printed, a written request should be made to the chairman at the time of transmittal.)

Troy Alabama AVS in memory of

Mrs. Sammye Ballard.....	\$10.00
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AVS of South Bay, CA, in memory of Leland Ford Wilcox.....	15.00
The Northern CA Council of AVS.....	25.00
T.H.E. AVS, Birmingham, AL in memory of Walter Marvin Pruet.....	5.00
Frances C. King in lieu of speaker's fee.....	20.00
Edward M. Blair in appreciation to Salley Hertel for completing Millie Blair's handwork....	30.00
T.H.E. AVS, Birmingham, AL.....	5.00
North Texas AV Judges Council.....	5.00
Patriots AVS, Belmont, MA, in memory of Duncan T. Thomson.....	10.00
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Columbus (OH) AVS.....	25.00
Wichita (KS) AV Study Club.....	10.00
Metropolitan St. Louis (MO) AVS.....	15.00
The Crosstown AVC, Madison, WI.....	15.00
Alamo AVS, San Antonio, TX.....	25.00
Atchafalaya VS, Morgan City, LA.....	10.00
Santa Clara Valley AVC, San Jose, CA, in memory of Christine Wilcox's mother.....	5.00
From friends of Mildred Deckman in her memory.....	7.50
The AVS of Philadelphia (PA) in lieu of judges fees to Mesdames Orville Carkhuff,; Dorothy Warman, Diane Abramson, Wallace P. Behnke, Robt. E. Pyle, Jr., Billy C. Moody, Stanley Crewe, Leland J. McMann, T. L. Shannon, Jr.....	10.00
African Violet Culture Club, Port Arthur, TX.	25.00
The AVS of Philadelphia (PA) in memory of Bessie Shade.....	5.00
T.H.E. AVS, Birmingham, AL, in memory of Miss Sybil Langston.....	5.00
Memorial to Ann Sedwich from members of her	

family	9.00
Helen Van Zele in memory of Jessie Cadle....	25.00
Delaware AVS in lieu of judges expenses to Mesdames N. F. Binder, F. McLaughlin, C. Wood, K. Lloyd, T. L. Shannon, D. Grabosky.....	10.00
AVS of East Texas.....	5.00
First AVS of Wichita Falls, TX.....	10.00
AVS Springfield, Delaware Co., PA in lieu of judges expenses to Mesdames B. G. Abramson, S. G. Borleske, Billy O. Moody, Robert Pyle, Jr., Helen P. Rolph, T. L. Shannon, John J. Callaghan, Messrs. Sam W. Rolph and James H. Klawitter.....	25.00
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Gloria Dei Towers, Huntingdon Valley, PA, in lieu of speakers fee to Anne Tinari.....	25.00
Potomac Council of AV Judges.....	10.00

CULTURE FOLDERS ARE AVAILABLE

On request to the AVSA office with a SASE enclosed, you may have a copy of the AVSA culture folder "HOW TO GROW AFRICAN VIOLETS". Affiliates may request folders for use at shows, violet displays, or plant sales. State quantity needed and make the request to the AVSA office. Allow adequate time for processing and delivery. No rush orders, please.

Only affiliates and/or commercial members are eligible to purchase "blank" folders. These are the same colorful, informative folders as the AVSA imprint folders with a blank space on the front. Purchasers of the "blank" folders are entitled to a rebate or commission of \$1 for each NEW (not renewal) membership received when five (5) or more applications are received during one year.

Rebates are paid by the AVSA Treasurer at the end of the fiscal year, February 28, to eligible commercial members or affiliates for new membership applications received on the member's culture folder coupons. The purchaser's name must be printed, stamped, or clearly written in the blank space which is the back of the membership application coupon in the culture folder.

"Blank" folders may be ordered by commercial members or affiliates at the following prices postpaid: 90 - \$2.50; 450 - \$11.50; 900 - \$22. Invest in the folders and reap the rebates while you promote membership in AVSA.

If you have articles, pictures or slides to be printed in the Magazine, send them to the Editor, NOT to the Knoxville office!

AVSA BOOSTER FUND

*Mrs. Arthur F. (Mary) Boland
6415 Wilcox Court
Alexandria, VA 22310*

Most of the spring shows are over and what better way to thank that all important Show Chairman, for all the hard work and time they have contributed, then a contribution to the Booster Fund. Your donations to the Booster Fund help pay for the little extras that make AVSA special. Be one of those special people, contribute to your fund.

Contributions from Feb. 18, 1978 to May 15, 1978.

Rainbow African Violet Club, St. Louis, MO.....	5.00
Monteo African Violet Club, Conroe, TX....	5.00
Rainbow Violeteers, Brookfield, WI.....	5.00
First African Violet Society, San Antonio, TX	20.00
The First African Violet Society of Denton, Denton, TX.....	10.00
The Cinderella AVC of Minneapolis, Minneapolis, MN.....	5.00
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Astro African Violet Club, Houston, TX....	5.00
North Texas A.V. Judges Council, Fort Worth, TX.....	5.00
Tustana African Violet Society, Santa Ana, CA.....	5.00
Friends of the late Mildred Deckman, Montgomery, AL.....	7.50
Atchafalaya Violet Society of America, Morgan City, LA.....	5.00
Metropolitan St. Louis African Violet Society, St. Louis, MO.....	10.00
Columbus African Violet Society, Columbus, OH.....	5.00
The Crosstown African Violet Club, Madison, WI.....	10.00
African Violet Society of the East Bay, Inc., Livermore, CA.....	25.00
Mrs. W. F. Anderson, St. Louis, MO. in lieu of speakers fee from Saintpaulia Society, Kirkwood, MO.....	10.00

Please state in your correspondence if it is your desire for your name or amount to remain anonymous.

Winners from Austin, Texas Convention/Show.



(Photos by Burton)

CORAL RADIANCE (Above)
1978 Best Seedling
by Lyndon Lyon

TEX-MEX (Right)
Best entry of the "Tex-Mex"
theme at Austin. Shown by
Mr. M. A. Schneider,
New Braunfels, Texas



Violets for Your Wedding

Mary C. Irwin
5043 Durant Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63115

It was January, during one of the worst blizzards the midwest has ever known. Outside it was dark and dreary, with more than twelve inches of snow on the frozen ground.

I was in my basement where I grow my violets on three-tiered carts under fluorescent lights. It was snug and warm here, and my plants made a pretty picture with their many blossoms as I went about watering, grooming and performing all the other chores needed to grow really fine African violets.

The telephone rang and when I answered it, a young woman's voice asked if I had African violets for sale. She told me she was being married March 19 and she wanted growing, blooming violets for all her wedding flowers. Since the ceremony would be in a very large chapel, she thought she would need eight or ten extra-large violets to bank the big altar, and three smaller plants for the bride and bridesmaids to carry.

I told her that I was over 80 years old and would really rather not undertake that large a task! She answered that she had been unable to find the large plants until a friend of mine had given her my name and told her I might have the size she needed.

"Well," I suggested, "why don't you come see my violets and then we can talk about it?"

It's not easy to say "no" to a happy bride!

My young friend came to see me on January 19, another gloomy day, when the streets were nearly impassable. I took her immediately to my basement growing area and as we were coming down the steps, she could look out over the tops of the benches and see hundreds of blooming violets in almost all colors of the rainbow.

She stopped and looked a few moments and then whispered, "Oh! I am impressed!"

I had one table of extra-large plants full of bloom and well groomed, most of them 24 to 26 inches in diameter. I showed these to her and asked if they would be large enough for her altar display. She was very pleased and told me that eight that size would do nicely, and she would leave it to me to send the ones which were doing best at the time of the wedding.

We then decided that the smaller ones for herself and her bridesmaids should be around 10 to 12 inches across, planted in 3-inch plastic tubs so as to be light and easy to carry. She chose 'Butterfly White' (Lyon) for herself and 'Tananna' (Naomi), a lavender double, for the two bridesmaids.



BRIDE'S VIOLETS—The African violet is really coming to the fore. When a bride decided she wanted to carry African violets as her bouquet, Mary Irwin of St. Louis, MO was able to provide the violets. And in the photo, we have the bride, Mrs. John Forbis, the former Peggy Zwabo, with her bouquet of violets and her two attendants with their violet bouquets: Mrs. Christie McClosky of St. Ann, MO (left) and Mrs. Richard Forbis of Ellisville, MO (right).

Next, of course, was the decoration of the pots. That was easy for the small, hand-held plants: a white lace doily around the top of each pot, gathered about the center stem to cover all soil, than green florists' foil, shaped to the pot and pleated to form a ruffle under the lace doily.

Decorating the larger altar plants was more difficult. There were no doilies that size, so I finally decided to use a double ruffle of green nylon net.

The net was folded and cut double thickness wide enough to extend one inch beyond the tips of the leaves with one inch allowance to extend inside the pot to cover the pot rim. The net strip was cut four times as long as the circumference of the pot and gathered about three-fourths inch from the fold. This made a fully fluffy ruffle.

Circles of cardboard were cut two inches wide with the inside diameter one inch less than the diameter of the pot. The net ruffle was sewed to this collar which made a very strong support. These were made in advance and, with the patience of Job, carefully slipped up from the bottom of the pots. Collars could be slit where the net ruffle overlaps and reclosed with tape if you lack the patience or exper-

tise to work them over the pot rim.

After the collars were in place I used the same florists' foil over the pots, pleating it beneath the nylon net ruffles, and the plants looked very pretty, indeed.

The bride called me and said she would pick up the flowers on March 18 and transport them in a large van. Now all I had to do was groom each plant as if it were going to a national convention show, put them all in their nylon net, doilies and florists' foil covers, and pack them very carefully in large boxes so no leaf would be broken or marred.

The eight large plants were 'Christmas Holly' (Reed), 'Granger's Pink Swan' (Granger), 'Vern's Delight' (V. Lorenzen), 'Red Chief' (Lyon), 'Lullaby' (Granger), 'Richter's Wedgewood' (Richter), 'Granger Garden's Blue Modiste' (Granger), and 'Rhapsodie Ophelia' (Holtkamp).

When the bride came with a helper to pick up her flowers, my first words to her were, "Are you pleased with your violets?" I had spent two months worrying over them and being afraid they would not be good enough for a wedding.

Her answer made it all worth while.

She said, "I never worried after I first saw your violets."

Two weeks after the wedding, she sent me a lovely "Thank you" note and a couple of weeks later, she brought me the wedding pictures. About three months after the wedding, she called and said the violets she had kept for herself were still blooming and beautiful.

Her thoughtfulness and appreciation made this a wonderful experience for me, and reminded me how nice "violet" people care!

Yearbook Entries For Denver Convention

*Mrs. H. Nicholas Hansen
Yearbook Judging Coordinator
708 Wyndale Road
Jenkintown, PA 19046*

First I wish to thank Mrs. Dwight W. Jeffrey, Yearbook Judging Chairman, and Mrs. T. L. Wheeler, Co-Chairman, and their committees who did an outstanding and thorough job in the judging of the yearbooks for the Austin Convention.

The 1978-79 yearbook entries for the Denver convention will be judged by the Metropolitan Regional Council of New York. Mrs. Anne Lee, 16 Tinder Lane, Levittown, NY 11759 will be the Yearbook Judging Chairman and the entries should be sent to her before March 1, 1979. Please send two copies of the book and enclose a self-addressed postal with the

entry if you wish an acknowledgement of the receipt of the books.

I cannot urge you strongly enough to GET YOUR BOOKS IN ON TIME. Several books have to be disqualified each year because the postmark is later than the deadline date. I know it is only human to procrastinate but most of the books are ready for distribution to the members of an affiliate in the fall, or at the latest, in January. I wish every affiliate could make it a point to send in their entry as soon as the book is finished. This not only gives the committee more time to get some of the work done early but also avoids disappointment to an affiliate in not having their entry judged. Even though the convention in Denver will not be held until June next year the deadline will still be March 1, 1979, and any books not postmarked by that date will have to be disqualified. Put it on your calendar NOW.

Yearbook Entries At Convention

According to Mrs. Dwight W. Jeffrey and Mrs. T. L. Wheeler, co-chairmen of yearbook judging at the AVSA convention in Austin, 1978 proved to be a record year for yearbook entries, with 81 AVSA affiliates participating in the competition. The array of entries indicates the growing family of AVSA affiliates.

The 1st prize, \$15 and rosette, was won by and awarded to the AVS of Lower Bucks County, Levittown, PA and not to the Levittown AVS of Long Island, NY. In 1975 the Levittown, PA AVS took 3rd place with its first yearbook.

The judging of the yearbooks was under the direction of the following committee chairmen and members of the North Texas African Violet Judge's Council: Mrs. Dwight W. Jeffrey, Mrs. T. L. Wheeler, Mrs. L. W. Chilcutt, Mrs. G. W. Smith, Bill Foster, Mrs. W. H. Haugh, Miss Maxine Beam, and Mrs. T. W. Padgett.

It is recommended that for affiliates wishing to enter their yearbooks for next year's competition, that books be mailed early, carefully packaged, sent by first class mail, and include the required number of copies to be sent. Affiliates who wish to be notified of the safe arrival of their yearbooks may include a self-addressed stamped postcard so that their entries may be acknowledged.

Names of newly elected officers are to be sent to the Affiliate Chairman, NOT to the Editor. Officers' names are printed ONLY in the November Magazine.



TUXEDO
By Vern Lorenzen

LONGLEAF by Ronn Nadeau





**GARY R. BECK
of
San Francisco**

**Presents Twin
beauties for
your approval**

(Photos by Beck)

FATIMA

MENDOCINO



CONVENTION MINUTES

32nd ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Tuesday, April 11, 1978

The 32nd annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., convened at 8:20 PM in the Bonham Room of the Austin Hotel, Austin, Texas, with President Melva Nelson presiding. Parliamentarian Mrs. Thomas J. Edmundson was present. The invocation was given by Mrs. James B. Carey.

President Nelson introduced the director nominees.

The following officers, directors and standing committee chairmen were present: Mrs. Nelson, Mesdames Garner, Krogman, Hansen, Peterson, Bogin, Burton, Hawley, Merrill, Boland, Lahr, Fladt, Fiedler, McKneely, Tyson, Schroeder, Chase, Lidiak, Richardson, Baker, Crane, Rienhardt, Tretter, Anderson and Carey, Messrs Stone, Buell, Grissom, McArthur, Plaster, Watson and Tinari and Misses Lex and Garrity.

Present by invitation from the President, having voice but no vote, were the director nominees Mesdames Cava and Brenner with Mesdames Young and Lackner absent. Also present were Mrs. Clarice Bell, Office Manager; Mrs. Grace Foote, Editor; Gus Becker, Publisher, and chairmen of special committees Mesdames Leary and Van Zele with Mrs. Slocumb and Mr. Burton absent.

President Nelson appointed Ellie Bogin, Mary Boland and Harvey Stone as the committee to approve the minutes.

President Nelson announced the appointment of Mrs. Fiedler to replace Mrs. Gonzales as chairman of the Best Varieties - Honor Roll committee and Mrs. Boland to replace Mrs. Plaster as chairman of the Booster Fund. It was moved that these appointments be accepted. Motion carried.

Reports were given by President Nelson (28,157 members as of the end of February), 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, Affiliate Chairman (120 award packets sent out), Boyce Edens Research Fund (\$2,820.24 received from 195 donors), Commercial Sales and Exhibits (286 Commercial Members), Convention Program Chairman and Convention Time and Place Chairman.

At this time Dora Baker moved that AVSA accept the invitation to hold the 1983 convention in Milwaukee at the Phister Hotel. Motion carried.

Dora Baker moved that we add another Collection Award to be given to the three best registered miniatures or semiminiatures, the same rules to apply as already established for the Collection Awards. It was moved that this motion be tabled. Motion carried.

Dora Baker moved that in the Convention Manual, Page 15, under Convention Time and Place Chairman be added:

1. Be sure that all rooms used have adequate fire exits.
2. If at all possible have more than three elevators - six would be perfect.
3. Under Convention Chairman, page 18 - Convention Chairman should appoint AVSA members to collect tickets at the door of each meal function. Some hotels have been careless

in counting them and we have been overcharged. Motion carried.

Further reports were given by the Library Chairman, Nominating Committee, Plant Registration (225 registrations made by 49 members), Master Variety List, Research, Membership and Promotion and Shows and Judges Chairman.

Ruth Carey moved that the following recommendation be accepted:

"We recommend that the commercial and amateur divisions of convention shows continue to be separate. AVSA does not have a requirement that this be followed in state, local or regional shows. These groups are permitted to make their own rules concerning amateur and commercial exhibitors.

"We also recommend that AVSA seek another course of action to encourage more amateur members to become commercial members." Motion carried.

Ruth Carey moved that a special committee with Mrs. E. A. Nelson as chairman be appointed to work on the next revision of the African Violet Handbook for Judges and Exhibitors and that they continue working on it until the book is printed and ready for distribution and that they be represented with voice and vote on the Board of Directors and empowered to complete the work independently of all other committees. Motion carried.

Ruth Carey reported that four new teachers certificates and 434 judges certificates were issued and a total of 31 judging schools were held, a larger number of each than in any previous year.

Reports were given by the Advertising Manager (78 new ads), Booster Fund Chairman (read by secretary, a total of \$614.00 added to the Fund), Best Varieties Chairman (oral), Miniature and Semiminiature Classification, Parliamentarian (oral), Public Relations (a gain of 426 new members through ads in six publications), Editor, Publisher and Office Manager.

Committee reports are attached to the minutes.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:31 PM until 9 AM Wednesday.

/s/ Elisabeth H. Hansen
Elisabeth H. Hansen, Secretary

/s/ Ellie Bogin
/s/ Mary A. Boland
/s/ Harvey L. Stone

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday, April 12, 1978

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 by President Nelson in the Bonham Room of the Austin Hotel, Austin, Texas. Parliamentarian Mrs. Thomas J. Edmundson was present. The roll call was the same as Tuesday evening's meeting except that Mesdames Fiedler, Leary and Van Zele were absent.

Neva Anderson, Publications Committee Chairman,

moved that the following recommendations of the Publications Committee be accepted:

1. That Grace Foote be retained as Editor and Gus Becker as Printer of the African Violet Magazine. Motion carried.

2. That the Advertising Manager shall accept only black and white ads; limit ads to one page per advertiser; and so state in all advertising material information. Motion carried. On page 19 of Standing Rules insert as Rule II B and make editorial corrections for B through G.

3. That publishing the bylaws annually in the magazine be eliminated and that bylaws be supplied in some form to new members with the membership card. Motion carried. On page 19 of Standing Rules I B 2 strike out "Bylaws".

4. That the section on Shows and Judges be eliminated in the September magazine and substitute a report from the Shows and Judges Chairman giving rule changes and additions with the page numbers in the Judges and Exhibitors Handbook where these changes should be inserted. Motion carried. On page 19 in Standing Rules strike out "Shows and Judges information" in Rule I B 3 and insert "Shows and Judges Chairman's report on rule changes" in I B 2.

5. That the list of Teachers and Judges be published in September. Motion carried. On page 19 in Standing Rules strike out "List of Teachers and Judges" in Rule I B 3 and insert in Rule I B 2.

6. That publication of the convention program in the March magazine be continued in the condensed form as published this year. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Adeline Krogman moved that we postpone further donations to the University of Wisconsin for Peter Bilkey's research for another year. Motion carried.

Awards Chairman Celine Chase gave a report on the work of the Awards Committee and asked that when members send in the name of a person being recommended for a recognition award that they also send a complete resume.

A letter was read from a member who did not like having the amount of donations made to the Boyce Edens Research Fund and the Booster Fund published beside the name of the donor. Jimmy Watson moved that the BERF and Booster Fund Chairman continue to publish the donors and the amounts and specify in the column that if anyone does not want the amount published that they say so. Motion carried.

The following resolution was presented from Willie King, AVSA member: Whereas smoking is becoming a matter of grave concern and an identifiable health hazard; and whereas many people are allergic to tobacco smoke, resulting in headaches, stomach upsets, difficulty in breathing, eye irritations, nasal congestion and other symptoms; and whereas the smoke and its odor are very objectionable, especially in crowded areas; therefore, be it resolved by the African Violet Society of America that smoking should not be allowed on tour buses, in workshop rooms and show rooms; Resolved that there be a smoking and non-smoking area for all meal functions; and resolved that cigars and pipes should not be allowed at any function.

It was moved to take no action on the resolution. After considerable discussion it was moved to reconsider the vote

on the resolution. Motion carried. An amendment to the motion was made that members be asked to voluntarily refrain from smoking in workshops only. The amended motion carried.

Adeline Krogman moved that Grace Foote and Gus Becker be given permission to interview various people and select one to work with Grace Foote for one year in order to become familiar with the Society magazine, at no cost to the Society. Motion carried.

Gus Becker showed samples of gift wrap paper and asked for opinions on it.

Harvey Stone showed sample sheets of slide holders he wants to use in order to organize more than 9000 slides sent to him by the former Library Chairman.

At 11:30 the meeting was recessed for lunch until 1:24 PM. The roll call was the same except that Mrs. Lidiak was also absent.

Finance Chairman Estelle Crane reviewed the budget. She moved that the Office Manager, the Editor and the permanent office help be given an increase in salary, effective as of May 1, 1978. Motion carried.

Affiliate Chairman Mildred Schroeder moved that the following changes be made in the Standing Rules:

Page 6 Rule IX F 3 changed to read "The panel of judges shall select one of its members to return the score sheets to the Show Chairman." Strike out "Affiliate Chairman." Motion carried.

Page 6 X B 3 changed to read "If the SSA is not awarded, the judge appointed by the Judges' Chairman shall return both cards and the score sheet to the Show Chairman." Strike out "Affiliate Chairman." Motion carried.

Page 7 Rule X 6 - substitute "Show Chairman: for "Affiliate Chairman" in last sentence. Motion carried.

Page 7 Rule X B 7 changed to read "Regardless of the score, the point-score sheet showing judges' evaluation of the show shall be given to the Show Chairman in a sealed envelope to be mailed to the Affiliate Chairman after completion of judging." Motion carried.

It was moved that the Miniature and Semiminiature Classification Chairman be given approval to order 2500 new Miniature Lists. Motion carried.

Treasurer Florence Garrity moved that an account be opened on the Continental National Bank of Englewood, Colorado, in the name of AVSA Inc. for the AVSA Denver convention account and thereby issue a check for \$600 to the committee so they can start business next year. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 PM.

/s/ Elisabeth H. Hansen
Elisabeth H. Hansen, Secretary

/s/ Ellie Bogin
/s/ Mary A. Boland
/s/ Harvey L. Stone

32nd ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING Saturday, April 15, 1978

The 32nd annual business meeting of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. was called to order at 9:50 AM by President Melva Nelson in the Bowie Room of the Austin

Hotel, Austin, Texas. Parliamentarian Mrs. Thomas J. Edmondson was present. The invocation was given by Mrs. John Lackner.

The President appointed the following committee to approve the minutes: Ellie Bogin, Mary Boland and Harvey Stone.

The following executive officers and directors were present: Mrs. E. A. Nelson, Mesdames Garner, Krogman, Hansen, Peterson, Bogin, Burton, Merrell, Boland, Lahr, Fladt, Fiedler, McKneely and Tyson, Messrs Stone, Buell, Grissom, McArthur and Plaster with Mrs. Hawley absent and Misses Lex and Garrity.

The following resolution was read by Mildred Schoeder in the absence of Ann Slocumb, Resolutions Chairman: Whereas, information, inspiration and sociability have been graciously provided by all present; therefore be it resolved that we convey our sincere appreciation and gratitude: To the Chairman of this convention, Mrs. Wade H. Hudnall, Austin, Texas, and to the Vice Chairman, Mrs. L. F. Lidiak, Austin, Texas, and their entire committee for their very efficient planning and fine organization of the convention. To the Show Chairman, Mrs. Fred C. Young, whose able assistance added much to the success of the convention. To our dedicated President, Mrs. E. A. (Melva) Nelson, St. Louis, MO., for help in preparation for this convention, for her untiring devotion, loyalty and thoughtfulness to all our members. To our Treasurer, Miss Florence M. Garrity, for her loyalty to our Society. To the Program Chairman, Mrs. J. A. W. (Ann) Richardson, and her assistants for their preparations for education workshops, for arranging beneficial programs, and for obtaining and scheduling interesting speakers. To the Awards Chairman, Mrs. Richard A. Chase and her committee, for her competent work in securing the merit awards in acknowledgment of superlative artistic and horticultural accomplishments. To our Chairman of Shows and Judges, Mrs. James B. Carey, for her untiring effort, understanding, and loyalty to the AVSA and her committees. To our Time and Place Chairman, Mrs. H. Harold Baker for her many years of service. To our Question Box Chairman, Mrs. Anne Tinari, with exceptional ability over the past quarter of a century. To the Commercial Chairman, Jimmy Watson, and members who participated in the show, and to the amateur exhibitors who contributed to the distinction of the show. To the executive Board members, the Board of Directors, the Standing Committee Chairmen, and their committees for their devotion and perseverance in the performance of their duties. To our honored guests: Richard E. Norris, PhD Candidate, Texas A&M University ("Salinity Program with Light and Water Tank Demonstration"); Raymond Schuck ("The Rest of the Family"). To the newspaper, television and radio personnel for their services in publicizing the convention. To the Managers and their staff of the Driskill Hotel and Stephen F. Austin Hotel for courteous and amiable attention and their consideration for the needs of those members present at the convention. **TO ALL MEMBERS** of our Society who contributed their time and efforts to make a grand success of this our 32nd convention; and be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be made a part of the minutes of this convention.

It was moved that these Resolutions be adopted. Motion carried.

The following resolution was read from Willie King, AVSA member: Whereas, smoking is becoming a matter of grave concern and an identifiable health hazard; and whereas many people are allergic to tobacco smoke, resulting in headaches, stomach upsets, difficulty in breathing, eye irritations, nasal congestion and other symptoms; and whereas the smoke and its odor are very objectionable, especially in crowded areas; therefore be it resolved by the African Violet Society of America that smoking should not be allowed on tour busses, in workshop rooms and show rooms; Resolved that there be a smoking and non-smoking area for all meal functions; and resolved that cigars and pipes should not be allowed at any function.

Grace Foote moved that the membership accept the recommendation of the Board of Directors that members voluntarily refrain from smoking at workshops only. Motion carried.

The report of the Nominating Committee was read and President Nelson asked for further names for each elective post and any of the offices. There being none the nominations were closed and the Secretary was instructed to cast the ballot for President, Mrs. Marvin Garner; 1st Vice President, Mrs. William J. Krogman; 2nd Vice President, Harvey Stone; 3rd Vice President, Mrs. J. A. W. Richardson; Secretary, Mrs. H. N. Hansen and Treasurer, Miss Florence M. Garrity. Directors, Miss Penelope Ann Brenner, Mrs. Ralph Cava, Mrs. John Lackner, Miss Edith V. Peterson and Mrs. Fred C. Young. The President declared the officers and directors duly elected.

Mrs. Harold Rienhardt installed the officers and directors.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 AM.

/s/ Elisabeth H. Hansen
Elisabeth H. Hansen, Secretary

/s/ Ellie Bogin
/s/ Mary A. Boland
/s/ Harvey L. Stone

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Saturday, April 15, 1978

The meeting of the AVSA Board of Directors was called to order by President Gene Garner at 10:48 AM in the Crockett Room of the Austin Hotel, Austin, Texas. Parliamentarian Mrs. Thomas J. Edmondson was present.

President Garner asked for approval of the Board of Directors for the appointment of the following Chairmen: Nominating Committee, Edith Peterson; Best Varieties and Honor Roll, Irene Fiedler; Booster Fund, Mary Boland; Handbook Chairman, Melva Nelson; Convention Time and Place, Jimmy Watson and Commercial Sales and Exhibits, Lloyd Lyn McArthur.

The following committee was appointed by the President to approve the minutes: Ellie Bogin, Mary Boland and Harvey Stone.

The booklet of officers, directors and committee chairman and committees for the ensuing year was given to each member present. Corrections and additions were made.

The following officers, directors and standing committee

chairmen were present: Mrs. Marvin Garner, Mesdames Krogman, Richardson, Hansen, Nelson, Boland, Larh, Fladt, Fiedler, McKneely, Tyson, Brenner, Cava, Lackner, Peterson, Schroeder, Chase, Lidiak, Crane, Rienhardt, Tretter, Anderson and Carey and Messrs Stone, Grissom, McArthur, Plaster, Buell, Watson and Tinari with Mrs. Young absent and Misses Garrity and Lex.

Present by invitation from the President, having voice but no vote, were chairmen of other committees Mesdames Leary and Bogin with Mesdames Merrell, Van Zele and Slocumb and Mr. Burton absent. Also present were Mesdames Bell and Foote and Mr. Becker.

Ruth Carey moved that in Standing Rules page 34 B 5 the rule be changed to read "Teachers are permitted to charge a fee of \$25.00 to \$50.00 for each school taught in addition to travel and expenses." Motion carried.

Ruth Carey moved that on page 7 of Standing Rules X C add the following as rule 8: "The Judges' Chairman shall appoint to judge for the SSA all judges or a panel of five." Motion carried.

The Publication Chairman, Neva Anderson, presented a Scale of Points for Affiliate Newsletters and Magazines and moved that it be adopted. Motion carried. Copy attached and will be available from Publications Chairman for SASE.

Ellie Bogin made the following motion for Dora Baker: With the permission of the Shows and Judges Chairman I move that there be a separate AVSA Collection Award for three registered miniatures or semiminiatures be instituted. Motion lost.

President Garner announced that the Chairman for the New Orleans Convention is Penny Brenner; Vice Chairman, Marian Magee, Show Chairman, Shirley Goslee and Beverly Renaudin, Show Vice Chairman.

Florence Garrity moved that the First National Bank of Commerce, the DeGaulle Branch, New Orleans, Laura Jordan, Treasurer, be approved for the New Orleans Convention account. Motion carried.

Cordelia Rienhardt moved that Neva Anderson be authorized to order culture folders from the printer. Motion carried.

Estelle Crane moved that the budget for the year 1978-79 be accepted. Motion carried.

Lawrence Grissom moved that the Auditor's report be accepted. Motion carried.

Cordelia Rienhardt presented a report from the Commercial Members meeting. After discussion it was suggested that the definition of a commercial grower be reworded.

The meeting adjourned at 12:56 PM.

/s/ Elisabeth H. Hansen
Elisabeth H. Hansen, Secretary

/s/ Ellie Bogin
/s/ Mary A. Boland
/s/ Harvey L. Stone

Names of newly elected officers are to be sent to the Affiliate Chairman, NOT to the Editor. Officers' names are printed ONLY in the November Magazine.

FIRST CONVENTION — FIRST SHOW

Larry E. Collins
1333 Riverside
Waco, TX 76706

My wife, Diane, and I have just attended our first AVSA Convention — and vow it won't be our last!

We arrived early Thursday morning to register our plants. Several helpful ladies aided us through the process with comments like, "Be sure to keep your exhibitor's number," and "Do you want to take off these spent blooms?" We handed over our lovelies like a mother sending her child off to school for the first time. Those around us were submitting their bundles of joy, too — some larger, some smaller. We took our packing boxes and left for a workshop. All we could do was wait, and wait . . . and wait.

Finally, 9:00 came; actually, 9:20 (I was counting each moment), and we strolled into the show room. We strolled because my wife had told me not to rush in like an amateur. The first entry we came to was our episcia "Cleopatra," given to us as a baby stolon 2 years ago by Mrs. Whitfield of the First AVS of Dallas at their show. We approached with trepidation. Was there a ribbon? Yes, a blue one! We were jubilant! So much for strolling. We rapidly headed for our violets. One by one we found them. Here a red ribbon, there a blue one, there a white one. Every one got a ribbon: 2 blue, 4 red, 2 white in all.

Some people may say, "Oh, they're not all blue ribbons." Well, no, they're not, and 2 of the violets should have been left at home. But as my wife put it, we didn't know any better than to take eight entries. You see, we had never entered a show, any show, anywhere. But we learned a lot from our mistakes. We learned from the workshops, and especially from those judges who took the extra time to make comments on the back of the entry tags. I wish all of them had. We learned a trailer has to have 3 trails. We learned symmetry is more important than blooms. And we learned that, of all things, pot size counts. But most of all, we learned that violet growers everywhere are alike—friendly, industrious, eager to learn, always encouraging, and always looking for that special violet to enter next year—maybe a yellow one.

There were a lot of badges that said, "This is my 1st Convention." Mine said that. I hope there will be a lot more next year in Denver. My wife thinks I'm taking her to the Swiss Alps next June. Well, I am, but not before a quick trip to the Colorado Rockies. Look for me next year with a badge that says, "This is my 2nd Convention." See you there!



COMING EVENTS

(Please send notices of "Coming Events" directly to the Editor; not to the Knoxville office. See inside cover (Strictly Business — Your Business) for deadlines.)

(If your "Coming Event" wasn't in the previous issue, it was because it arrived too late for publication. See inside cover page for deadlines)

SEPT. 8 - 9 — WISCONSIN: The Evening Violeteer Club's display/sale at the London Square Mall, Eau Claire Hwy. 12/53. Sept. 8, 9:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Sept. 9, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Mrs. Norman Imig, club president.

SEPT. 9 - 10 — WISCONSIN: Green Bay Area AVS' fall sale and demonstrations at Green Bay Plaza Mall, Military and Mason Streets. Sept. 9, 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.; Sept. 10, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

SEPT. 22 - 23 — LOUISIANA: The First New Orleans AVS presents "Fashions in Violets for '78", the first annual fall fashion show of NEW introductions and plant sale, Oakwood Shopping Mall, West Bank Expressway and Terry Parkway, Gretna, LA. Educational exhibit and slides. Sept. 22, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Sept. 23, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free admission. Mary Engel, chairman.

SEPT. 29 - 30 — FLORIDA: Judging School at Sun Federal Savings & Loan Association, West Side, 1706 West Tennessee St., Tallahassee. Interested persons contact Mrs. Carl H. Ramm, local chairman, 514 Terrace St., 32308 or Mrs. Henry C. Mills, teacher, 1121 Alachua, 32302.

SEPT. 30 - OCT. 1 — NEW JERSEY: New Jersey Council of AV Clubs 18th show/sale, "Violets and the World Around Us," at the Quaker Bridge Mall, Rt. 1 near I 295, Lawrenceville, NJ. Public invited; admission free. Sept. 30, 10 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.; Oct. 1, 12 - 5 p.m. Edward Bradford, show chairman; Mrs. Edward W. Hemmer, cochairman.

OCT. 6 - 7 — LOUISIANA: Top Choice AVS' annual fall show/plant sale at the Pierremont Mall in Shreveport. Mrs. O. P. Wilson, president.

OCT. 6 - 7 — TEXAS: First AVS of San Antonio's fall show/plant sale at East Court of North Star Mall. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Public invited. Margaret Kerr, show chairman; Lillian Gravis, president.

OCT. 6 - 8 — MINNESOTA: The North Star AV Council's annual show/sale to be held at Rosedale Shopping Center, W Hwy. 36 and Fairview Ave. N. Richard Sandve, show chairman, 5101 Vincent Ave., Mpls 55410. (612) 925-2299. No admission charge.

OCT. 14 - CONNECTICUT: Nutmeg State AVS' Judging School at home of Miss Ruth Hatch, RD #2, Route 148, Killingworth, Conn., 06417, at 9 a.m. Mrs. Sidney Bogin will be the instructor. All interested are welcome. Please contact Miss Hatch at 663-1374

OCT. 20 - 21 — TEXAS: The Hill Country AVS will hold a judged show/sale, "Austin Beauty Is Violets" in Central Park Mall, lower level, San Antonio.

OCT. 21 — MASSACHUSETTS: The Bloomin' Violets to hold show/sale in small old-fashioned church, the First Parish United, in Westford Center. Right of Route 495, in Westford. Admission free. Free parking. Non-member entries welcome, 7 - 9 p.m. Oct. 20. Newest varieties from Lyndon Lyon. 200-plus African violets and 25 floral designs. 1 - 5 p.m.

OCT. 21 - 22 — NEW YORK: Levittown AVS of Long Island's annual show, "Violets Sail the Seas" at American Legion Hall, 3484 Park Avenue, Wantagh, NY. Oct. 21, 2 - 8 p.m.; Oct. 22, 1 - 6 p.m. Diane Marlunas, show chairman.

OCT. 21 - 22 — CONNECTICUT: Naugatonic African Violet Society to hold annual fall show/plant sale at Boothe Memorial Park, Stratford, Route 110. Free parking, admission free. Oct. 21 and 22, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Edna Rourke, president.

OCT. 27 - 28 — CALIFORNIA: Nitebloomers annual show/sale, "Nitebloomers Re-exposed," at Presidential Gallery, 1115 Delmas Ave., San Jose, CA, Oct. 27, 5 - 9 p.m. and Oct. 28, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Admission free. Mrs. Dorothy Kahrman, Show Chairman. Take 280 Freeway to San Jose. Turn South at Meridian Ave., exit to Willow St. east on Willow to Delmas. the Presidential Gallery is located behind the Limas Family Mortuary.

OCT. 28 — LOUISIANA: Baton Rouge AVS to conduct judging school with Mrs. H. Steven Johnson

of Orlando, FL as the teacher. Dr. and Mrs. Jerome Brown, 5354 N. Afton Parkway, Baton Rouge, LA 70806 are chairmen in charge. Mrs. J. Y. Ragusa, president.

OCT. 28 — TEXAS: The Green Thumb AVS of San Antonio will hold annual fall show/sale, "Clowning Around With Violets", at McCreless Mall. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

OCT. 28 - 29 — TEXAS: First Austin AVS annual fall show/sale at Garden Center in Zilker Gardens, Austin. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. both days. Mrs. W. H. Balzen, president.

WHY NOT HAVE AN AVSA MEMBERSHIP TABLE IN YOUR SHOW?



NOV. 3 - 4 — TEXAS: The Lone Star African Violet Council to meet in Wichita Falls Friday, Nov. 3, and Saturday, Nov. 4 for its fall meeting and show. For further information contact Mrs. Charles Ramser, 2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308.

NOV. 4 - 5 — CONNECTICUT: Nutmeg State AVS' annual judged show, "Violet Reign" at New Haven Motor Inn, 100 Pondlily Ave., New Haven, Conn. (Exit #59 Merritt Pkwy.) Nov. 4, 2 - 6 p.m. Nov. 5, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Besides beautiful violets to see and others to buy, there will be workshops pertaining to violet culture and arranging. Public invited, admission free. Mrs. George Boose, show chairman. For additional information call 688-3842.

1979 Special Awards Listed

Celine Chase, AVSA Awards Chairman, has just received word that special awards are to be made for eight African violets at the Denver convention/show June 1979.

Dora Baker is offering an award for 'Dora Baker' and Ellie Bogin for 'Dear Ellie'. Tinari's awards will be for 'Anne's Favorite', 'Lavender Tiara' and 'Mini Fantasy' and Granger's awards will be for 'Millie Blair' and 'Garnet Elf'. Northern California Council is offering an award for 'Celine'.

Seattle AVS Is Winner!

The blue rosette for the Best Newsletter, awarded at the AVSA convention in Austin, was won by the Seattle AVS, Seattle, WA, Pat Hill, Editor. In the June issue it was announced that the Best Newsletter award was won by Blossoms AVS Newsletter. "Blossoms" is the name of the Seattle AVS Newsletter.

"Grow a Plant Pet"

If you want a pet that is clean, quiet and doesn't need to be walked, then you'll want to read Virginie Fowler Elbert's newest book, "Grow a Plant Pet". The book will be off the press early in November. The jacket of the book, designed by Seymour Chwast is especially intriguing for juveniles with its pets growing out of a flower pot. However, there's plenty of good advice in it for adults as well.

The book deals with the care and feeding of healthy, happy plants as the author reminds one that plants need soil and a pot to grow in as well as needing a drink of water and food to eat. Here are some of the chapter titles: "Getting Rid of Pests", "Giving Your Plant a Haircut", "Starting Your Own Plant Factory" and many others to gain one's interest.

"Grow a Plant Pet" is a Doubleday Signal Book and was written to meet the needs of older children. Still there's much good and practical advice for both indoor and outdoor novice gardeners. Pictures and care guides for indoor plants illustrate the various means of identifying plants in stores, how plants are cared for on window sills as well as under fluorescent lights and how to make new plants from the ones you already have.

The book is not only instructive, but it is very detailed in teaching a person to grow a healthy, attractive plant pet.

LIFETIME JUDGES

Check your judges' certificate. If it carries a notation "Due 1978", the review examination is due by October 1. See June magazine, page 18.

If you failed to get your MAGAZINE, notify the Knoxville office. NOT the Editor, who does not keep magazine copies on hand.

DENVER—the Mile High City Will Host 1979 Convention

*Linda Boster
Publicity Chairman*

The 1979 AVSA Convention/Show is to be held in Denver, which has mile high air. Keen, dry, zesty mountain air hits lung bottom. Its blue skies and brilliant sunlight can be enjoyed more than 300 days a year. Denver's altitude is 5,280 feet; thus, the nickname, "the Mile High City". She is referred to as the climate capital of the world. The sun shines a lot, the air is usually dry; summer has a few scorchers but cool nights. The winter is crisp and not particularly cold.

Denver was born in 1858. Her father was a townsite promoter, and her mother a lucky gold strike. Her godfather was General James W. Denver, Governor of the Kansas Territory. The gold seekers came in vast numbers pausing at the loud and noisy tent and log cabin settlement at the base of the Front Range of the Rockies to take on provisions and then rushed on. With the riches of minerals and game nearby, Denver was realizing the importance of a transportation link with the rest of the country and in 1870 the Union Pacific Railroad line was opened from Denver to Cheyenne. Denver began to boom. Gold began to peter out, but silver mines brought Denver into its own and by 1890 the population had topped 100,000.

Already the capital of the Colorado Territory, Denver was chosen the state capital when Colorado entered the Union in 1876. Today, rising majestically above the city, the great state capital proudly displays its' 23 karat covered gold dome.

Today Denver still maintains the open hospitality of friendly people while also thriving as transportation, industrial, commercial and cultural center of the Rocky Mountain West.

Denver has over 100 named parks, four municipal golf courses, tennis courts, swimming pools, gorgeous flowers and world famous blue-grass lawns. There are five professional sports teams in Denver, baseball, football, soccer, hockey and basketball. There are thoroughbred and quarter horse racing, and greyhound racing. Enjoy summer

HOW ABOUT A BATH?

We enjoy nice refreshing baths and feel like a new and different person — so why not give our African violets a bath and see how sparkling and beautiful they'll become?



CONVENTION CITY—Amidst the peace and serenity of the magnificent Colorado Rocky Mountains sits dynamic Denver site of the 1979 AVSA Convention/Show. For over a century the little town in the plains has been transforming into a metropolis of skyscrapers and crisscrossing highways. A study of the city produces a unique contrast where the best and most colorful of the old has been carefully preserved to blend with the sophistication of the 20th century.

stock at the time-honored Elitch Gardens, or visit our city zoo. With its symphony, art museum, Broadway plays and concerts, there is probably no other city in the world of similar size where visitors can choose from a schedule as tempting and varied as Denver's.

Exquisitely beautiful Denver combines the sophistication of the big city with the warm, friendliness of a small one.

FERTILIZER PROBLEMS

All experts agree it is better to under fertilize than give the plants too much. Often the amounts recommended on the bottle or packet will be too much for some soil mixtures, so use less than the directions say. Too much can cause hard centers or bumps on both the leaf stems and stalks. Flush the plant with warm water, and allow to recover for a few weeks before refertilizing with quarter strength for a while.

AVSA AFFILIATES

Mrs. Wayne (Mildred) Schroeder
Affiliate Chairman
1739 N 74th Court
Elmwood Park, IL 60635



AVSA has presented charters to 22 new affiliated chapters within the last three months! Records are tumbling and we are proud. Our affiliates now include a club from Lima, Peru, South America. The African violet has become a true globe trotter. Welcome to you all!

CIRCULO DE LA VIOLETA AFRICANA, FLOR PERU, Pres. Vita de Selva-Santisteban, Avenida Santa Cruz 937, Lima 18 Peru, South America.

FLOWERTOWN VIOLET CLUB OF SUMMERVILLE, Pres. Mrs. Louis Tusing, 102 Pheasant Lane, Quail Arbor, Summerville, SC 29483

TREASURE STATE'S FIRST AVS, Pres. Sheila Russell, 215 8th Ave., Lewistown, MT 59457

EVENING BLOOMERS AVS, Pres. Mrs. Linn Thompson, 1226 E. Hines Ave., Peoria Heights, IL 61614

CENTRAL ARKANSAS AVS, Pres. Rev. Jeremiah Monios, Box 5687, Little Rock, AR 72215

ALUM ROCK AVS, Pres. Mrs. Irene Haseltine, 365 South Henry Ave., San Jose, CA 95117

DELBROOK AVS, Pres. Mrs. Doreen Jamieson, 634 Croydon Pl., North Vancouver, BC Canada V7N-3A1

PILGRIM AVC, Pres. Mrs. John Cook, 28 Minot, Falmouth, MA 02540

ABILENE AVS, Pres. Mrs. Sandy La Hue, 5102 Twilight Trail, Abilene, TX 79606

NEW BRAUNFELS TWILIGHT AVS, Pres. Melissa Kraft, 706 W. Merriweather, New Braunfels, TX 78130

NORTH OAKLAND AVC, Pres. Mrs. Maxine Taylor, 4201 Waterloo, Waterford, MI 48095

TEXAS STAR AVC, Pres. Mrs. Peggy Rogers, 1507 Scurry St., Big Springs, TX 79720

NORTH STAR AVC, Pres. Fran Braga, 8936 Logan Ave., S Minneapolis, MN 55431

CLASSIC CITY AVS, Pres. Mrs. Brian Henderson, 195 Pendleton Dr., Athens, GA 30606

YORK AVS, Pres. Mrs. Gerald Storey, 217 Hanwell Rd., Fredericton, NB Canada

AVS OF MADISON COUNTY, Pres. Betty J. Burch, Rt. 5, Box 306, Huntsville, AL 35811

MAGIC CITY AVS, Pres. Mrs. Walter Anderson, 3168 Star Lake Dr., Birmingham, AL 35226

CHIMNEYVILLE AVC, Pres. Mrs. Miriam K. Greene, 234 Melrose Dr., Jackson, MS 39211

TUMBLEWEEDS AVS, Pres. Vi Green, 1708 Ord, Laramie, WY 82070

SPRINGFIELD AVC, Pres. Mrs. Jean Beery, 710 Shrine Rd., Springfield, OH 45504

AV COUNCIL OF FLORIDA, Pres. Mrs. R. J. Yawger, 30 Turner St., Apt. 508, Clearwater, FL 33516

NITE BLOOMERS AVC, Pres. Sharon A. Williams, 3114 Hollyberry Ln., Jacksonville, FL 32211

Reinstated

SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY, Pres. Edd Stretch Smith, 4136 Flora Place, St. Louis, MO 63110

FRIENDSHIP AVS, Pres. Mrs. Ray Peeler, Jr., 1912 Nancy Lea Dr., Bonham, TX 75418

During the past year your Affiliate Chairman has encountered some problems which can be solved if we all work together. Many of you are new affiliates and want to learn procedure which must be followed in accordance with AVSA rules.

The following rules must be observed:

1. Awards Packets must be requested by THE SHOW CHAIRMAN. It is she/he who will be responsible for the packet and will receive the rosettes when awarded. THE SHOW CHAIRMAN will return, in a sealed envelope, the AVSA Collection Award forms and the Standard Show Achievement Award form, plus any unawarded rosettes. This procedure will eliminate the two or three mailings from each show that were previously made.

2. Your show must be judged by either MERIT or COMPETITIVE method. Do not try to combine both methods. Your show schedule will not be accepted unless this rule is followed.

3. A new rule passed at the Austin Convention permits the Standard Show Achievement Award to be judged by all judges (if there are two panels) or a panel of 5 judges appointed by the judges' chairman. This rule would expedite the judging in cases where the show is large and there are many judges.

4. PLEASE check the SSA form to be sure that it is complete with all information needed for completing the mathematical portion of the form included. Do Not sign the form before the show has been completely judged and evaluated.

5. Please write your name exactly as you wish it to be listed in the file. If you want to be Mrs., Miss or Ms or Mr. please so indicate. Do not forget your exact address including zip code on all correspondence.

6. Your request for the AVSA awards packet must

be in the hands of the Affiliate Chairman ONE MONTH before your show date. Please write again if you have not received it at least 10 days before your show.

If you publish a newsletter or magazine, you may have a copy of the revised (April 15, 1978) scale of points for judging. If your editor did not receive a copy of the revised scale after the Austin Convention, send a sample copy of your publication and enclose a SASE with your request for copy of the scale of points to Publications Chairman, Mrs. W. F. Anderson, 360 Tulip Dr., St. Louis, MO 63119.

During the month of November your club president will receive a dues renewal notice. Just one more parting request—please return this form completely filled in to the AVSA office in Knoxville as directed. It will help both the AVSA office and me to complete your affiliation quickly and without further correspondence to your club. If you do not receive this form by January 1, please let me know. Thanks for listening. Your cooperation is much appreciated!

SAYS TO HANDLE CLOROX WITH CARE

*Mrs. Jimmy Hentz
1108 W. Beach Drive
Panama City, FL*

This experience with my violets happened in December, 1977, but two recent events make me feel the need to tell about it.

I'm sure most of you have read about the horrible train derailment where eight people died from the deadly chlorine gas fumes released from a ruptured tanker here in Florida, not far from Panama City where I live. This gas was hundreds of times stronger than what most of us are familiar with as liquid chlorine bleach such as Clorox. In a recent issue of African Violet Magazine, someone asked Anne Tinari about using Clorox to clean white rocks used under their violets. Anne's answer to use caution in diluting the Clorox bleach was indeed correct for now I will relate my violet tragedy.

The first few weeks in December, my Flora-Cart of violets could not have been prettier—the plants were filled with lovely blossoms that stood high above the pretty foliage. I was about to make a short trip and decided there was too much algae on the white rocks under my plants. These rocks or chicken grit were used only for humidity as the plants were either on wick pots or in saucers so that the plants did not directly take up the water on the rocks. I have used clorox diluted with water many times to clean the rocks but since the rocks were covered with more algae than usual, this time I did not dilute the bleach as much. The rocks immediately went white again

and all looked so pretty.

Returning from my trip, I noticed lots of blooms were droopy but I thought "Oh well, you can't last forever." It was so close to Christmas and with the rush of things at this time of year, I really didn't have time for my hobby. Before I went out of town for Christmas I added more plain water to the rocks, as they were dry, thinking this would add humidity to the room while I was away.

Needless to say, this caused the Clorox fumes to rise again and to my horror when I returned, all the lovely blooms were dead and the plants seemed to be dying, too. I wondered what had happened? What had I done to my beautiful Flora-Cart and the plants that I was grooming for the 1978 Spring show? I also grow violets in a kitchen bay window and nothing was wrong there. I then knew the only thing I had done to the cart and not the bay window was the Clorox bleach. I called several of my violet friends and they agreed that the fumes had caused my trouble. I threw the rocks away, bought new ones (gray, this time), and salvaged the plants that I could.

It took some time, but my Flora-Cart is once again beautiful. There are 50 lovely plants all on wick pots bursting with blooms. I plan to enter some in our local show being sponsored this year by my club, the Dixie Moonbeam African Violet Society.

Hopefully, this story will warn others that Clorox, like the chlorine gas, is a very good product with many uses, but must be handled carefully especially around your pretty African violets.

Watch Your Plants

Watch your plants!

Did you know that your African violets can tell you when they need special attention?

Did you know that spots on leaves or streaks may be caused by cold water, too much direct sun, chilling or cold drafts, or nematodes?

Did you know that yellowing of leaves may be caused by lack of nitrogen, too strong light, root rot, lack of moisture, or lack of magnesium?

Did you know that lack of blossoms may be caused by not enough light, too high temperature, not enough humidity, poor root system, lack of proper fertilizer, or maybe the plant just needs repotting?

Did you know that if blossoms fall, it may be caused by thrips, lack of fresh air, insufficient watering, low humidity, or maybe a gas leak?

Did you know that if blossoms fail to open, it may be caused by cyclamen mites, too low humidity, too dry soil, too much nitrogen, lack of fertilizer or lack of magnesium?

Only Two Leaves Broken Over 150 Miles of Twisting Road

Anne K. Christensen
P. O. Box 628
Point Arena, CA 95468

After worrying endless hours about my violets, concerning our move, 150 miles up the narrow, twisting Shoreline Highway 7, here in northern California, I felt I had to write and tell other, "Violet Lovers", how well it went.

Although the distance was relatively short, it was to be an overnight trip, due to the road, so I was worried about the temperature, as well. I felt, as they were professional movers, they would not realize my "plants", were by far the most, "precious" cargo going into the van, and would, no doubt, end up, under the china. To make matters still worse, I also had several leaves started in water, and an avocado seed I could not bear to part with!

The day before loading, I prepared my violets for their trip. I placed 3 or 4 to a carton, bracing them with newspaper between the pots. (Most of mine are too large to very successfully raise the leaves and put a paper collar on). I shut the lids, wrote "Plants" — "This Side Up", all over the boxes, sat back and wondered if I would ever see my beautiful violets in one piece again. The leaves and the avocado seed, I wedged very tightly in a box and then did the same.

Moving day I told the men about my violets, in detail, and was assured the plants travelled well. However, I did not find this very reassuring as I watched them begin to load in a very, "matter of fact", way. Fortunately, we also have a team of Percheron draft horses, that needed to be loaded in their truck and sent along so I did not have a chance to sit and fret for 6 hours while they loaded the van.

We drove up, and most of my thoughts that night were of the fate that had undoubtedly befallen my violets. Even if they had started out O.K., I fretted, on that twisting road, no doubt the freezer had by now slid over on top of them!

The next day, as they unloaded, it seemed as though they would never get to my violets and lights. Then came the lights, and finally — the boxes and boxes of violets! I really was afraid to remove the lids for fear of what I would find. I was amazed! From the San Francisco Bay Area, 150 miles up a very twisting coast road, to Point Arena, 37 violets and only 2 broken leaves (that I most probably broke when packing them). Slips and avocado seed, A-O.K., too!

If anyone has ever worried about professional movers moving their plants before, I am sure this is a

familiar story. If not, I hope this will be reassuring, as on top of the worrying about the loading, I do not believe there are 150 miles of worse road for them to have traveled over, and mine arrived in top shape! Just relax, and be assured your "babies", will arrive at your new home A-O.K.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

The following new Life Members have been welcomed by President Gene Garner into our AVSA Life Membership Family:

Sandra Knapp, R 4, Paddock Rd., Beloit, WI 53511; Mrs. G. W. Smith, Route 1, Box 17-C, Rockwall, TX 75087; Beverly Hendricks, 801 N. Bragaw, Anchorage, AK 99504; Dr. Robert Bannister, 5016 Harwood Drive, Des Moines, IA 50312; Jean Greenfield, Box 7, Amherst, WI 54406; Mrs. Bruce U. Smith, 204 N. Hillcrest Blvd., Inglewood, CA 90301; Mrs. David F. Sweet, 240 Davis Street, Seekonk, MA 02771; Mary Schultz, 1122 E. 6th N., Bountiful, UT 84010; Doris Artis, 5555 S. Willow Drive, No. 21, Houston, TX 77035; Richard Cheah, 29J, Jalan Jintan, Singapore - Republic of Singapore 9; Doris B. Katz, P. O. Box 368, Stanley, VA 22851; Mrs. Russell I. Yawger, 30 Turner St., Apt. 508, Clearwater, FL 33516 and Mrs. Pat Moss, 4740 E. 54th, Apt. 147, Tulsa, OK 74135.

Drainage Idea

Richard Langer now comes up with an idea of providing drainage for some of your plants in ceramic or ornamental glazed pots, which usually don't have any drainage holes. Here's his suggestion:

Recycle some clean plastic foam cups or trays by tossing them into the blender along with half a cup of water. Chop them up. Fill the lower quarter of the pot with the chips before you add the soil and plant. The mix makes great drainage material for the bottom of a terrarium as well.

If you have articles, pictures or slides to be printed in the Magazine, send them to the Editor, NOT to the Knoxville office!

AVSA JUDGES, *LIFETIME JUDGES and †TEACHERS June 1, 1978

(These names have been carefully checked with the Knoxville office and Mrs. Ruth Carey, chairman of Shows and Judges. If your name is missing we are sincerely sorry. Please let us know.)

CANADA

Mrs. Jacqueline Agnew, 8 Smith St., Moncton, N.B. E1C-8G2
Ms Sheila Andrich, 29 Oriole St., Winnipeg, Man. R3T-OK2
Mrs. J. Andrich, 29 Oriole St. Winnipeg, Man. R3T-OK2
Mrs. C. M. Batchelor, 330 Claude Ave., Dorval, Que. H9S-3B3
† * Mrs. C. W. Beattie, 283 Churchill Dr., Winnipeg, Man., R3L-1V7
Mrs. Jean Bell, Codys, RR4, Queens County, NB E0E-1E0
Mrs. Eva Belliveau, 10 Vista Dr., Moncton, NB E1A-4L5
Mrs. Christina Beukeveld, 63 Lefurgey Ave., Moncton, NB E1C-7G5
Mrs. J. A. Britten, 6314 Chebucto Rd., Halifax, NS B3L-1K8
Doris M. Brownlie, 600 Silvercreek Blvd, #80, Mississauga, Ont. L5A-2B4
John T. Brownlie, 600 Silvercreek Blvd. #80, Mississauga, Ont. L5A-2B4
Edward P. Bruce, 36 Elfreda Blvd. Scarborough, Ont. M1L-4L7
Lloyd Davies, 75 Graydon Hall Dr., Apt. 105, Don Mills, Ont. M3A-3A3
Mrs. Greta Durand, 1132 Lake Twintrev Dr. SE, Calgary, Alb. T2J-2T1
Mrs. Phyllis Flynn, 22 Richelieu Dr., St. Catharines, Ont. L2M-2B8
Mrs. Lola Geldart, 81 Arden St., Moncton, NB E1C-4B6
Mrs. I. Haddon, 663 Laxdal Rd., Winnipeg, Man. R3R-0V7
Mrs. Phyllis Hall, Rt. 1, Penobsquis, NB E0E-1L0
Mrs. Leo Hutchinson, 622 Balmoral St., Saskatoon, Sask. S7K-0V7
Mrs. M. Innard, 122 Regina Ave., Kenora, Ont. P9N-2Z7
Sue Lampkin, 1042 Falgarwood Dr., #97, Oakville, Ont.
Miss Sandra Lex, 70 Enfield Ave., Toronto, Ont. M8W-1T9
Mrs. Mabel Mlazar, Box 207, Ft. Quappelle, Sask S0C-1S0
Mrs. David Moffett, P. O. Box 198, Sussex, NB E0E-1P0
Mrs. Edith Morrison, Apohaqui RR2, Kings Co., NB E0G-1A0
Mrs. Donald Murray, Penobsquis, Kings County, NB E0E-1L0
Mrs. George McLeod, Penobsquis, Kings Co., NB E0E-1L0
Mrs. W. Neate, 981 Indian Rd., Mississauga, Ont. L5H-1R6
Mrs. D. H. Nelson, Townhouse 2, 341 Westwood Dr., Winnipeg, Man. R3K-1G4
Mrs. Katherine Nemeth, 497 Raglan Rd., Winnipeg, Man. R3G-3EA
Lynda Parker, Site 2, Fraser's Rd., Bx. 30, RR1, Timberlea, NS B3L-4J1
Elizabeth Pickel, 26 St. Catherine St., Saint John, NB E2J-1B6
Mrs. Carole Plevin, 2405-75 Emmett Ave., Toronto, Ont. M6M-5A7
Ms. Donald Plevin, 2405-75 Emmett Ave., Toronto, Ont. M6M-5A7
Mrs. Sylvia Richardson, 2907 Lakeshore Blvd., W #2, Toronto, Ont. M8V-1J3
Mrs. Louise Secord, Apohaqui RR 2, Kings Co., NB E0G-1A0
Robert C. Serbin, 393 Sackville St., Winnipeg, Man. R3J-1Z9
Mrs. W. Skuzanski, 726 Arlington St., Winnipeg, Man. R3E-2E1
Mrs. Helen Somers, 54 Lipton St., Winnipeg, Man. R3G-2G5
Mrs. T. Southall, 439 Locksley Bay, Winnipeg, 15 Man.
Elizabeth A. Tapping, No. 1503-511 The West Mall, Etobicoke, Ont. M9C-1G5

ALABAMA

Miss S. E. Adams, Rt. 1, Box 348, Enterprise 36330
Mrs. Walter Anderson, 3168 Star Lake Dr., Birmingham 35226
Mrs. Ray Attleberger, Rt. 1, Box 29, Waverly 36879
* Mrs. J. D. Austin, 1221 41st St. W., Birmingham 35208

* Mrs. Palmer B. Bell, 473 Shades Crest Rd., Birmingham 35226
Myra Benton, Rt. 6, Andalusia 36420
* Mrs. Clarence F. Boggan, 4421 Clairmont Ave., Birmingham 35222
* Mrs. J. M. Breckenridge, 1042 19th Ave., S. Birmingham 35205
Mrs. E. G. Brown, 45 South Valley Rd., Palmedale 35123
Mrs. Rex S. Clements, Jr., 1043 Montevallo Rd. SW, Leeds 35094
* Mrs. T. H. Collins, 1901 Southwood Rd., Birmingham 35216
* Mrs. Ed R. Davis, Box 16, Montevallo 35115
Mrs. Charles J. Donald, Jr., 3308 E. Briercliff Rd., Birmingham 35223
Mrs. W. A. Donaldson, 1025 Inzer Dr., Birmingham 35214
Ms Ann Durham, 2041 Commodore Circle, Montgomery 36106
† * Ruby T. Eichelberger, 1409 S. 10th St., Birmingham 35205
Evelyn R. Flick, 208 N 65 Place, Birmingham 35206
Mrs. Lucille C. Forslund, 800 Comer Circle, Birmingham 35216
* Mrs. W. L. Frank, 1110 Sims Ave., Birmingham 35213
Mrs. Denson N. Franklin, 3349 Spring Valley Ct., Birmingham 35223
Elizabeth Fuller, 3412 S. Perry St., Montgomery 36105
Mrs. Lyndel G. Graves, 245 Lake Ct., Hope Hull 36043
Mrs. N. L. Hamm, 1022 N 48th St., Birmingham 35212
Mrs. L. T. Hatcher, 1051 Shades Crescent Rd., Birmingham 35226
Mrs. J. C. Henry, 312 Greatview Cir., Birmingham 35226
Shirley A. Heron, 108 W. Forest Ave., Troy 36081
Barbara Hodge, 102 Country Club Dr., Prattville 36067
Mrs. E. M. Irwin, 1312 Main St., Gardendale 35071
Miss Kathleen Langston, P. O. Box 52, Jemison 35085
Mrs. Frank Ledford, 2052 Kentucky Ave., Birmingham 35216
† * Mrs. Roy Lockhart, P. O. Box 20051, Birmingham 35216
Mrs. G. E. Lumpkin, Rt. 2, Box 245, Pinson 35126
Mrs. H. L. McClure, Sr., Box 4, Palmedale 35123
Mrs. Arthur R. McFarland, 644 Lisa Ln., Birmingham 35206
* Mrs. May Bradford Mims, 2704 Overhill Rd., Birmingham 35223
Mrs. Beverly Montgomery, 630 Cloverdale Rd., Montgomery 36106
Dr. Horace Nelson, 106 Glenwood Ave., Troy 36081
Mary Pritchett, 3763 Spearman Dr., Birmingham 35216
Mrs. D. E. Sands, 1701 India Rd., Opelika 36801
Mrs. Orland O. Sisler, 2833 Ashley Ave., Montgomery 36109
Mrs. Grace Speights, 303 N. Hillcrest, Rt. 1, Troy 36081
Mrs. Barbara Stock, Rt. 1, Box 209, Elmore 36025
Nancy B. Therrell, 2023 Commodore Cir., Montgomery 36106
Mrs. Walter Thompson, 2907 Southwood Rd., Birmingham 35223
Doris Till, 347 Ogden Rd., Montgomery 36105
Mrs. Ted Wohlford, 2320 Farley Terr., Birmingham 35226

ALASKA

Beverly Hendricks, 801 N. Bragaw, Anchorage 99504
Mrs. Myrle Wollf, 1635 E 26th Ave., Anchorage 99503

ARIZONA

Marilyn I. Baker, 4863 W Carol. Ave., Glendale 85302
Miss Jessie Bates, 351 E. Rudasill Rd., Tucson 85704
Norma Beckman, 201 S. Avenida De La Vista, Tucson 85710
Mrs. Ronald A. Fogg, 20018 Palo Verde Dr., Sun City 85373
Mrs. John D. Fraser, Jr., 808 N. Sonoita St., Tucson 85711
Mrs. Frank B. Over, 4850 E. Cooper, Tucson 85711
Tina Pfifer, 9030 E 9th St., Tucson 85710
Steve Reiter, 4834 E. Bellevue Ave., Tucson 85712

CALIFORNIA

- Mrs. Gertrude Allegeier, 1060 Cavanaugh Way, Sacramento 95822
- Mrs. Cecile L. Ambler, 220 El Toyonal, Orinda 94563
- Louis B. Ambler, Jr., 220 El Toyonal, Orinda 94563
- Mrs. Betty Anderson, 2947 W. Lincoln Ave., Anaheim 92801
- Mrs. E. T. Bartholomew, 172 W. Elfin Green, Port Hueneme 93041
- A. Charles Bollar, 17055 Community St., Northridge 91324
- Steven A. Bonacich, 958 Stannage Ave., Albany 94706
- Doris Boyles, 11244 Cecilia St., Norwalk 90650
- Mrs. Wendell A. Bruce, 4030 Laguna Ave., Oakland 94602
- Cecelia Buchanan, 810 S. Myrtle Ave., Inglewood 90301
- George M. Carpentier, 2358 Montrose Ave., Montrose 91020
- Gayle Chappell, 513 Teslin Ct., Bakersfield 93308
- Mrs. Celine K. Chase, 482 Rutherford Ave., Redwood City 94061
- Mrs. Lois J. Clark, 3800 Madrid Ave., Bakersfield 93309
- Mrs. Pat Cohen, 3741 Claremont, Irvine 92714
- Mrs. Doris F. Cormier, 1859 Anamor, Redwood City 94061
- Mrs. Barbara Coster, 2902 Walker Lee Dr., Los Alamitos 90720
- George Crouchet, 3201 W. 110th St., Inglewood 90303
- Alyene Daggett, 1414 Usona Dr., San Jose 95118
- Mrs. J. L. DeLong, 6276 Brynwood Ct., San Diego 92120
- Arlene Dossey, 14703 Aranza Dr., La Mirada 90638
- Mrs. Haradelle Downing, 1400 W. Fir Ave., Oxnard 93030
- Mrs. Jean Dupertuis, 6 Magee Ave., Mill Valley 94941
- Mrs. A. V. Dye, 1112 Little John Way, San Jose 95129
- Mark S. Eggink, 17847 Hoffman Ave., Cerritos 90701
- Mrs. Barbara Jane Elkin, 719 Pritchard Ct., Santa Clara 95051
- Mrs. Sylvia Fellows, 4718 Maychelle Dr., Anaheim 92807
- Peggy Jean Freed, 619 Davenport Dr., San Jose 95127
- †* Helen M. Freie, 4854 N. Cedar St., El Monte 91732
- * Minnie Y. Hall, 390 N. Winchester, Apt. 16-A, Santa Clara 95050
- Eugenia Hammond, 1341 Park Dr., Chula Vista 92011
- * Mrs. R. E. Hertel, 9495 S. Wales Way, Elk Grove 95624
- Arthur F. Hill, 1468 Ponderosa Ave., Fullerton 92635
- Mrs. Betty J. Hill, 3313 Madonna Drive, Fullerton 92635
- Hans Inpijn, 4800 Haskell Ave., Encino 91436
- Mrs. J. K. Jantzen, 2725 Katrina Way, Mountain View 94040
- Mrs. Marjorie M. Jenny, 553 Daroca, San Gabriel 91775
- Mrs. J. L. Jones, 4069 Olive Hill Dr., Claremont 91711
- Mrs. H. C. Kahrmann, Jr., 190 W. El Caminito, Campbell 95008
- Mrs. Bruce Kelly, 9204 Olive, Temple City 91780
- Berniece H. Kennerson, 11818 Gateway Blvd., Apt. 3, Los Angeles 90064
- Mrs. Frances C. King, 3327 28th St., San Diego 92104
- Mrs. Michael Landrum, 5073 Sultana, Temple City 91780
- * Mrs. Paul Lazetera, 1651 Campbell Ave., San Jose 95125
- Cheridah L. Lewis, P. O. Box 584, Tustin 92680
- Kim C. Lewis, 9841 Brentwood Dr., Santa Ana 92705
- Madge R. Lillquist, 8515 Ranchito Ave., Panorama City 91402
- Betty L. Logan, 9818 La Cresta Rd., Spring Valley 92077
- Mrs. Ruth McCoy, Rt. 1, Box 580, Arvin 93203
- James H. McElroy, 1247 S. Fleetwell Ave., W. Covina 91790
- Mrs. Marie McHenry, 2514 Aster St., San Diego 92109
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 C. E. Byerly, 1525 Lincoln Pl., Calumet City 60409
 Leonard Byerly, 1525 Lincoln Place, Calumet City 60409
 Marie Crow, 1316 W. Maywood, Peoria 61604
 Donald Esler, 14224 Minerva Ave., Dolton 60419
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 Joyce A. Faubel, 507 E. Holland St., Washington 61571
 Mrs. Melvin Farney, 109 Avalon Court, Creve Coeur 61611
 * Mrs. Frank Hokd, Jr., Box 124, Seaton 61476
 Mrs. Lloyd F. Lamm, 30 Windsor Dr., Oak Brook Court, Creve Coeur 61611
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 Mrs. Gene A. Thiel, 100 Fletcher Dr., Collinsville 62234
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 Margaret Veselack, RR 1, Box 191, Hudson 61748
 Joyce Wengert, RR1, Box 115, Pecatonica 61063

IOWA

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 * Mrs. Roscoe E. Jones, 1303 68th St., Des Moines 50311
 † J. B. Kuhler, 2824 S.E. 14th St., #6, Des Moines 50320

KANSAS

Erica W. Clayberg, Rt. 4, Box 9D, Manhattan 66502
 Dorothea M. Suddath, 4214 W. 59th St., Shawnee Mission 66205

KENTUCKY

Bonnie A. Ruetenik, Rt. 3, Box 8, Kevil 42053

LOUISIANA

Mrs. Lee Alexander, 1527 Maura Pl., New Orleans 70114
 Norris J. Alexander, 1527 Maura, New Orleans 70114
 Jane C. Baker, 2700 Whitnev Pl., Apt. #828, Metairie 70002
 Mrs. Carl S. Ball, P. O. Box 122, Ball 71405
 Mrs. Lenora M. Barker, 3150 Military Hwy., Pineville 71360
 Mrs. John Baudean, 100 Neil Ave., New Orleans 70114
 Mrs. Marjorie Blake, 415 Terry Pkwy., Gretna 70053
 Penelope Ann Brenner, 1882 Farragut St., New Orleans 70114
 Col. James L. Britton, 969 E. Lexington Ave., Gretna 70053
 Judith C. Britton, 969 E. Lexington Ave., Gretna 70053
 * Jerome E. Brown, P. O. Box 2332, Baton Rouge 70821
 * Mrs. Jerome E. Brown, P. O. Box 2332, Baton Rouge 70821
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 Mrs. A. LaCoste, Jr., 154 14th St., New Orleans 70124
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- †* Mrs. W. M. Plaster, 8304 Suffolk Dr., Shreveport 71106
 Mrs. J. Y. Ragusa, 1074 Parlange Dr., Baton Rouge 70806
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 Barbara Sisk, 2305 Friendship Dr., Harvey 70058
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 Nancy Steinback, 12524 E. Sheraton Ave., Baton Rouge 70815
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 Lauren Summerville, 717 Deerfield Rd., Gretna 70053
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 Shirley D. Vogler, 17017 Chickasaw, Greenwell Springs 70739
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 Mrs. Paul E. Whatley, 1204 Fairfield Ave., Shreveport 71106
 Theresa A. White, 670C Rue Chene, Belle Chasse 70037
 Mrs. Robert E. Williams, 2647 Hyman Pl., New Orleans 70114
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 Mrs. Elizabeth C. Wilson, 6126 Burgundy, Shreveport 71105

MAINE

- †* Mrs. Warren E. Churchill, North Main St., Rockport 04856

MARYLAND

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 Mrs. R. E. Meissner, 4108 Charley Forest St., Olney 20832
 Raymond A. Nowowieski, 5339 Glen Arm Rd., Glen Arm 21057
 * Miss Beatrice Sauter, 2123 Northland Rd., Baltimore 21207

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 C. Temple 18 Heckle St., Wellesley Hills 02181

MICHIGAN

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 Mrs. Andrew M. Leslie, 7662 Woodview Dr., Apt. 1, Westland 48185

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 Miss Frances Braga, 8936 Logan Ave. So., Bloomington 55431
 Mrs. Kenneth Fleisch, 4811 37th Ave. So., Minneapolis 55417

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MISSISSIPPI

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 Joan Aubuchon, 7330 Leona, St. Louis 63116
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- Mrs. James N. Tallant, 4305 Cobbleston Rd., NE, Albuquerque 87109

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- Joseph Bielskas, 69-35 Nansen St., Forest Hills 11375
- Mrs. Judith Bielskas, 69-35 Nansen St., Forest Hills 11375
- Mrs. Beatrice K. Blake, Box 344, Mappa Ave., Barneveld 13304
- †* Mrs. Sidney Bogin, 39 Boyd St., Long Beach, L.I. 11561
- Edward Bradford, 85-25 86th St., Woodhaven 11421
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- Robert E. Casey, 218 Beley Ave., Mattydale 13211
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- Pamela Craft, 3611 Rhode Island Ave., Niagara Falls 14305
- Mrs. Thomas Curtin, 26 Mundy Ave., Staten Island 10310
- Mrs. Grace P. Darrah, 322 Sunrise Dr., Syracuse 13205
- Francis V. Delly, 305 W. 13th St., Apt. 4H, New York 10014
- Mary Dimitriadis, 33 Saquoit St., New York Mills 13417
- Michael Dimitriadis, 33 Saquoit St., New York Mills 13417

- †* Raymond J. Dooley, Jr., 33 Collfield Ave., Staten Island 10302
- * Mrs. Raymond Dooley, 33 Collfield Ave., Staten Island 10302
- Hermine Drossos, RD. 2, Rockefeller Rd., Auburn 13021
- * Miss Leila M. Egenites, 29-50 214th Place, Bayside 11360
- Mrs. Vincent Federico, 11 Violet Ave., Mineola 11501
- Mrs. Gertrude P. Ferris, 415 9th Ave., New York 10001
- Mrs. Raymond Fisher, 18 Phyllis Pl., West Islip 11795
- Mrs. Edmund Fox, 1165 E 54th St., Apt. 7-E, Brooklyn 11234
- Marie D. Frank, 46 Russell Rd., Garden City 11530
- Mrs. Frank Freiheit, 2546 Harvey Ave., Oceanside 11572
- Mrs. Joseph Ghossn, 87-12 Jamaica Ave., Woodhaven 11421
- Mary J. Gibney, 55 Davison Ave., Oceanside 11572
- Lois E. Gilliam, 193-04 45th Ave., Flushing 11358
- Jean Gleason, 312 Westholm Blvd., Syracuse 13219
- Mrs. William F. Gleason, 312 Westholm Blvd., Syracuse 13219
- Mrs. Grayce Godfrey, 1902 Edward Lane, Merrick, L. I. 11566
- Mrs. Leon Gonneau, 417 Hubbell Ave., Syracuse 13207
- Mrs. E. Gordon, 60-18 53rd St., Maspeth 11378
- Mrs. Ellen Graves, 5981 Mayflower Rd., Niagara Falls 14305
- Mrs. Sophia Greives, 101-37 123rd St., Richmond Hill 11419
- Mrs. Frank Gugliada, 16 Meeker St., Staten Island 10306
- Mrs. Erna Gundlach, 292 Edinboro Rd., Staten Island 10306
- Mrs. Percy J. Hansen, 64 Kings Lane, Rochester 14617
- Mrs. H. S. Harvey, 20 Adams St., Garden City 11530
- Mrs. Eleanor Hilzman, 102 Hillside Ln., Syosset 11791
- Paul F. Kasperski, 5 Hewlett Point Ave., E Rockaway 11518
- Mrs. Paul F. Kasperski, 5 Hewlett Point Ave., E Rockaway 11518
- * Mrs. Estelle Kienzle, 68 Bayview Ave., Staten Island 10309
- Joseph Kohn, 150-38 77th Ave., Flushing 11367
- Mrs. Joseph Kohn, 150-38 77th Ave., Flushing 11367
- Susan Kokoszczyński, 64-31 60 Rd., Maspeth 11378
- † Mrs. Carol Ann Kostulias, 461 Wellington Rd., Mineola 11501
- Lillian E. Lechterman, 189 Median St., North Merrick 11566
- Mrs. Anne Lee, 16 Tinder Lane, Levittown 11756
- Helen P. Lindenberg, 338 Chestnut Ave., East Meadow 11554
- Mrs. Janet Lottermoser, 6236 Louwayne Pl., Clay 13041
- Diane Markunas, 71 Lockwood Ave., South Farmingdale 11735
- Mrs. Ruth W. Meek, 214 Goodrich Ave., Syracuse 13210
- Martin Miller, 214 Oakmont Dr., Dewitt 13214
- Mrs. Martin Miller, 214 Oakmont Dr., Dewitt 13214
- †* Mrs. James W. Minehan, 29 Circuit Dr., Binghamton 13903
- Mrs. Anna Myska, 9705 69th Ave., Forest Hills 11375
- Miss Sandra Myska, 9705 69th Ave., Forest Hills 11375
- August J. Nordone, 114 N. Cheltenham Rd., Syracuse 13205
- Mrs. Marie Nussbaum, 37-30 83rd St., Jackson Heights 11372
- * Mrs. Frederick W. Oswald, 5 Euston Rd., Garden City 11530
- Mrs. Beverly Philipponne, Rt. 2, Box 280, Norwich 13815
- Mrs. Gail Puskas, 540 Grand Blvd., Deer Park 11729
- Betty Raskopf, 3405 Manchester Rd., Wantagh 11793
- Priscilla C. Red Elk, 205 Point Pleasant Rd., Rochester 14622
- * Harold Rienhardt, 4463 W. Seneca Tpk., Rt. 2, Syracuse 13215
- †* Mrs. Harold Rienhardt, 4463 W. Seneca Tpk., Rt. 2, Syracuse 13215
- Mrs. Albert Rohrlach, 329 Southwood Circle, Syosset 11791
- Mrs. Claire Rosenberg, 12 Melissa Lane, Old Bethpage 11804
- Mrs. Kathryn Rotando, 131 Taft Ave., Long Beach 11561
- Mrs. Kenneth Rutmayer, 2 Hampton St., Hauppauge 11787
- Mrs. Ralph D. Saret, 11 White Dr., Cedarhurst 11516
- James H. Smith, 946 Cleveland Ave., Niagara Falls 14305
- * Mrs. Sidney D. Smith, 916 Nottingham Rd., Jameville 13078
- * Mrs. Clarence R. Somers, 3241 Page Green Rd., Rt. 2, Cortland 13045
- Mrs. F. Strnad, Box 173, Northport 11768
- Mrs. William Strobach, 6508 Amboy Rd., Staten Island 10309
- Mrs. Helen Szymok, 60-16 69th Lane, Maspeth 11378
- Patricia Taylor, 182 Raymond St., Islip 11751
- Alinor Ticknor, RD #1, Box 306, Central Square 13036
- Fred L. Ticknor, RD #1, Box 306, Central Square 13036
- Mrs. John Tucker, 2 Duke St., Bellmore 11710
- Mrs. June M. Unger, 34-11 93rd St., Jackson Heights 11372
- Jimmy Watson, 1361 Madison Ave., Apt. 2-AA, New York 10028
- Mrs. Hugh Weld, 317 Wellesley Rd., Syracuse 13207
- Mrs. Jane Weber, 50 Belknap Dr., Northport 11768
- Mrs. Joseph A. Weynand, 309 Montauk Hgwy., East Moriches 11940
- †* Mrs. Edith A. Wolf, 1501 Undercliff Ave., #4P, Bronx 10453

Beryl J. Wood, P. O. Box 276, Locust Valley 11560
Paul R. Younger, 115 East 9th St., Apt. 14-J, New York 10003

NORTH CAROLINA

Mrs. E. J. Phillips, 20-107 Kenilworth Rd., Asheville 28803

OHIO

- Mrs. Harold Armstrong, 136 Marshall St., Conneaut 44030
†* Mrs. Henry Bircher, 7666 Bentler Rd., NE, Canton 44721
Sharon Bruce, 430 Crandall Dr., Worthington 43085
Mrs. Allen L. Bump, 613 Hilltonia Ave., Columbus 43223
Mrs. Glen H. Clark, 6895 N. State, Rt. 48, Covington 45318
Mrs. James E. Collins, 10455 N. Reece Rd., Piqua 45356
Mrs. Carolyn Copeland, 2476 Broadway, NE, East Canton 44730
* Mrs. M. E. Garner, 1010 Edgewood, SE, North Canton 44720
Mrs. Carter H. Grinstead, 1864 Berkshire Road, Columbus 43221
* Mrs. Catherine Hawley, 2432 Nottingham Rd., Columbus 43221
Patsy L. Jenkins, PSC Box 11891, Wright Patterson AFB 45433
Mrs. L. B. Jones, 7732 Burkey, Reynoldsburg 43068
Mrs. Richard H. Lane, 2561 Andover Rd., Columbus 43221
Mrs. Elmer C. Lusk, 1173 Oakland Ave., Columbus 43212
Marilyn L. Miller, 12045 Navarre Rd., SW, Navarre 44662
Mrs. R. Morton Miller, 3415 Polley Rd., Columbus 43220
Mrs. Thelma Miller, 1771 Kermit Ave., Columbus 43207
Linda A. Neumann, 11620 Mapleridge Dr., North Royalton 44133
Harford Renick, 6993 Darby Road, Circleville 43113
Mrs. Herbert Robinson, 1219 Ivy St., NW, North Canton 44720
Mrs. Clyde Rosaa, 399 Furnace Road, Conneaut 44030
†* Mrs. James S. Savage, 625 West 5th St., Chillicothe 45601
* Mrs. John Slivka, 403 George St., Fayette 43521
Opal Stockum, 615 Cambridge Rd., Coshocton 43812
Mrs. Rebecca J. Swaney, 3260 Parmly Rd., Perry 44081
Mrs. John G. Torma, 3241 Lake Ave., Ashtabula 44004
†* Mrs. Leroy Tucker, 2812 N. Star Ave., Columbus 43221
Mrs. M. C. Vance, 2761 Lakewood Dr., Columbus 43229
Mrs. Jack Westfall, 823 S. Mulberry St., Troy 45373

OKLAHOMA

Jeanne E. Chelsea, 4112 E. 30th St., Tulsa 74114
Mrs. Aubrey Freeman, 5332 S. Columbia, Tulsa 74105
Sidney Groeneman, 5321 E. 26th Pl., Tulsa 74114
Mrs. J. L. Harris, 3539 W. 41st Pl., Tulsa 74107
Mrs. E. A. Howlett, 4916 E. 38th Pl., Tulsa 74135
Betty Miller, 905 N. Elm, Owasso 74055
Mrs. Burton M. Paull, 6008 S 76th E Ave., Tulsa 74145
Charles Sims, 1308 S. Sandusky, Tulsa 74112
Mrs. Melba Sims, 1308 S. Sandusky, Tulsa 74112
Pam Stacy, 13042 E 16th Pl., Apt. D, Tulsa 74108
Mrs. C. D. Taylor, 5916 E 29th St., Tulsa 74114
Linda C. Vantreese, 905 W. Vicksburg, Broken Arrow 74012

OREGON

- Lawrence Grissom, 6045 SW Glenbrook Rd., Beaverton 97005
* Mrs. Hayes Kirkland, 17043 S Forsythe Rd., Oregon City 97045

PENNSYLVANIA

- Mrs. N. F. Binder, 2950 Old Cedar Grove Rd., Broomall 19008
Mrs. S. J. Bishop, 345 Powell Rd., Springfield 19064
Mrs. Blair Capriotti, 707 Garden St., Bristol 19007
Sallyann Gansky, 114 Hollyhock Dr., Lafayette Hill 19444
Mrs. Lois W. Giles, Rt. 2, Box 663, Sheppenville 16254
Mrs. David Grabosky, 5314 N. Carlisle St., Philadelphia 19141
Mrs. Roberta M. Hale, 1650 Cherry Hill Rd., S, State College 16801
†* Mrs. H. N. Hansen, 708 Wyndale Rd., Jenkintown 19046
James H. Klawitter, 5720 Wissahickson Ave., Apt C-17, Philadelphia 19144
Mrs. Kenneth H. Lloyd, 3716 Huey Ave., Drexel Hill 19026
William R. Lyons, 38 Indian Creek Dr., Levittown 19057
Mrs. William R. Lyons, 38 Indian Creek Dr., Levittown 19057
†* Richard T. Meyers, 140 Lorraine Ave., Oreland 19075
* Mrs. Richard T. Meyers, 140 Lorraine Ave., Oreland 19075

Mrs. Helen P. Rolph, 7207 Cresheim Rd., Philadelphia 19119
Sam W. Rolph, Jr., 7207 Cresheim Rd., Philadelphia 19119
Thomas Seiler, 2050 E. Orleans St., Philadelphia 19134
Mrs. T. L. Shannon, Jr., 8845 Norwood Ave., Philadelphia 19118

- * Mrs. Anne Tinari, 2325 Valley Rd., Huntingdon Valley 19006
Mrs. Charles A. Wood, 2301 Grasslyn Ave., Havertown 19083

RHODE ISLAND

- C. Russell Marshall, 410 Algonquin Dr., Warwick 02888
John R. Mashuta, 3595 Post Rd., Apt. 21303, Warwick 02886
* Mrs. Olivia Do Paco, 33 Rice Ave., East Providence 02914
†* Miss Eileen Paco, 33 Rice Ave, East Providence 02914

SOUTH CAROLINA

Mrs. P. A. Tusing, 102 Pheasant Ln., Quail Arbor, Summerville 29483
Mrs. D. Zeis, Rt. 7, Box 159, Greer 29651

TENNESSEE

- Mrs. Gloria J. Barber, 1312 Prescott, Memphis 38111
Mrs. C. Patrick Bell, 7226 Creathwood Cove, Germantown 38138
Mrs. Edward C. Bronson, 1506 Tuscany Way, Germantown 38138
†* Mrs. James B. Carey, 3900 Garden Dr., Knoxville 37918
Mrs. Roy Cooper, Route 2, Box 223, Millington 38053
Barbara Culbreath, 827 Harvey Cove, Memphis 38122
Mrs. W. A. Fowler, 4922 Flamingo Rd., Memphis 38117
Barbara Frazier, 3226 Scotland Rd., Memphis 38128
* Mrs. Paul O. Gillespie, Sr., 5201 St. Elmo Ave., Chattanooga 37409
Mrs. Kathryn P. Hickman, 2424 Mackinnen Dr., Memphis 38138
Sarah J. Hopkins, 4957 Verosa Ave., Memphis 38117
Elsie L. Johnson, 3356 S. Perkins Rd., Memphis 38118
Mrs. L. McPherson, 3148 Belle Tower Rd., Memphis 38138
Mrs. Cheryl D. Pagella, 7186 Devine St., Memphis 38134
Mrs. C. A. Pair, Jr., 2022 Higbee, Memphis 38104
Mrs. Charles R. Phillips, 3028 Dumbarton, Memphis 38128
Paul Reschke, 415 Catalpa Hill Dr., Memphis 38134
Mrs. Paul Reschke, 415 Catalpa Hill Dr., Memphis 38134
Margaret H. Sauter, 4823 Flamingo, Memphis 38117
Ms Elizabeth C. Trigg, 6421 Sulgrave Pl., Memphis 38138
Mrs. W. P. Warren, Jr., 4770 Craigmont, Memphis 38128
Mrs. Charis Wichers, 776 Bartlett Rd., No. 2, Memphis 38122
Mrs. Judy Williams, 3275 E. Rosita Cir., Memphis 38116
Mrs. Grady Woody, 4567 Park, Memphis 38117

TEXAS

- Fran Allison, 1705 So. Houston, Pasadena 77502
Mrs. Doris Artis, 5555 S. Willow Dr., No. 21, Houston 77035
Mrs. Edgar B. Baker, 79 Ravenswood Dr., Bedford 76021
Mrs. Michael Baker, 4641 Gayle Circle, Corpus Christi 78413
Mrs. W. H. Balzen, 7605 Silvercrest Cr., Austin 78757
Lavern Barden, P. O. Box 828, Kingsville 78363
Verda Barden, 433 North Dr., San Antonio 78201
Mrs. James I. Bartlett, 4208 Everglade, Port Arthur 77640
Mrs. Derald Bauhs, 9205 Quail Cove, Austin 78758
Maxine V. Beam, Rt. 1, Box 93, Roanoke 76262
Mrs. J. R. Beauchamp, 5122 Forest Haven Dr., Houston 77066
* Mrs. Charles M. Berry, 3801 Shelby Dr., Ft. Worth 76109
Mrs. Bruce A. Blalock, 13411 Taylorcrest, Houston 77079
Pamela C. Brewster, 1000 W. Hickory, Denton 76201
Mrs. Richard J. Brogdon, 5622 Dumfries, Houston 77096
Mrs. Percy J. Broussard, 3820 Cobblestone, Port Arthur 77640
Mrs. Wm. R. Burgin, 257 Mobil Town Dr., Bryan 77801
Mrs. Noel Cain, 4621 Calle Olmo, Temple 76501
Mrs. Clark Carpenter, 3855 3rd St., Port Arthur 77640
Mrs. Raymond Carr, Jr., 4616 Kemble St., Ft. Worth 76103
Mrs. J. R. Chatelain, 1116 S 36th, Nederland 77627
Mrs. L. W. Chilcutt, 1100 Cleecker, Ft. Worth 76111
Mrs. Reid B. Cochran, 374 Meldo Park Dr., Corpus Christi 78411

Mrs. H. J. Coffman, 3205 Woodford Dr., Arlington 76012
 Mrs. Dillon Q. Corley, 5804 Trail Lake Dr., Fort Worth 76133
 Mrs. Oran Crouch, 2012 Locksley Lane, Denton 76201
 Eunice Curry, 614 Mimosa, Denton 76201
 Mrs. J. B. Cutts, 516 Dogwood, Wylie 75098
 Mrs. W. R. Cypert, Box 218, Merkel 79536
 Marie Dattalo, 5900 39th St., Groves 77619
 Mrs. Harold Deloach, 428 Lindenwood Ln., Hewitt 76643
 Mrs. Pat Denney, P. O. Box 578, Van Alstyne 75095
 Mrs. J. B. Drake, P. O. Box 486, Hondo 78861
 Sandra Dudley, 3309 Milby, Wichita Falls 76308
 Jean Duplantis, 204 David Dr., Bridge City 77611
 Mrs. Robert D. Early, 5916 Walla, Ft. Worth 76133
 Daniel L. Evans, 144 Sinclair, Corpus Christi 78411
 Mrs. Deborah J. Fields, 33 Canterbury, Orange 77630
 Mrs. Brennan A. Forcht, 833 McKinney Ave., Arlington 76012
 Bill Foster, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite 75149
 Mrs. Bill Foster, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite 75149
 Mrs. Judy Fragua, 3506 1st, Brownwood 76801
 Ken Froboese, Rt. 1, Box 33, Boerne 78006
 Mrs. Chas. A. Frost, 1546 Sylvan, Dallas 75208
 Mrs. C. J. Ganson, P. O. Box 3953, Baytown 77520
 Mrs. Edwin Glaser, 14103 Wilo, Houston 77032
 Mrs. Ian Goldfoot, 8902 Birdwood Cir., Houston 77096
 Billie Golla, 6203 Rollingbrook Dr., Houston 77096
 George W. Goodrich, Rt. 4, 426E, Canyon Lake 78130
 Mrs. George C. Gorzycki, 3306 Clearview Dr., Austin 78703
 Lillian A. Gravis, 522 Cloudcroft Dr., San Antonio 78228
 Diane Grigsby, 2310 E. Erwin, Tyler 75702
 Mrs. A. A. Guyton, 1800 FM 1640 No. 709, Richmond 77469
 Norita Hallum, Box 181, Brownwood 76801
 Eldon Hammond, 5418 Lake Killarney, Waco 76710
 Mrs. Eldon Hammond, 5418 Lake Killarney, Waco 76710
 Mrs. James A. Hankerson, 3010 San Paula, Dallas 75228
 Mrs. Bessie Hatherly, 611 Franklin Blvd., Austin 78751
 Mary Hedlund, 120 N. Spring Creek, Richardson 75080
 Mrs. Lee Roy Hejl, Rt. L, Box 301-A, Bryan 77801
 Walker M. Hicks, 3823 Watt Ave., Waco 76710
 Verna L. Hudson, 11718 Campos, Houston 77065
 Mrs. Robert L. Hummer, 10606 Sunflower Lane, San Antonio 78213
 Mrs. James Jacobson, 1918 Yorktown, Abilene 79603
 Mrs. Dwight W. Jeffrey, 1918 Williamsburg Row, Denton 76201
 Mrs. Coy W. Jenkins, 506 Nesbit, Garland 75041
 Mrs. Philip R. Johnson, 5805 Old Crowley Rd., Ft. Worth 76134
 Mrs. B. F. Ketcherside, 810 Cactus Dr., Bridge City 77611
 Mrs. John Kreska, 13574 Brookgreen Dr., Dallas 75240
 Ann Krock, 8815 Woodbury, San Antonio 78217
 † Raymond H. Lange, 413 Westgate Dr., Corpus Christi 78408
 Jane La Rocca, 3716 Boyd Ave., Groves 77619
 † Mrs. L. F. Lidiak, 4503 Sinclair, Austin 78756
 Mrs. James D. Long, 1629 Lynnhaven Rd., Ft. Worth 76103
 Mrs. Earl Looper, 5125 8th St., Port Arthur 77640
 Barbara Lorimor, 21215 Abby Oaks Cir., Houston 77073
 Connie J. Lucas, 717 Delmar Ln., Arlington 76012
 Mrs. B. H., MacDonald, 1604 16th St., Brownwood 76801
 Sarah N. McCutchen, 9200 Lark, Waco 76710
 Natalie McWaters, 8114 Langdon Ln., Houston 77036
 Mrs. O. P. Maddox, P. O. Box 1593, Kingsville 78363
 Mrs. James H. Martin, 4228 Santa Fe, Corpus Christi 78411
 Mrs. Don Monroe, 1658 E. Northwest Hwy. 1094, Garland 75041
 Ruth Moser, Box 819, Beeville 78102
 Mrs. Susan Myers, 4922 Loch Lomond, Houston 77096
 Mrs. George Nash, 1515 Annette St., Kingsville 78363
 Mrs. R. H. Nelson, 603 Lake Creek Dr., Round Rock 78664
 Mrs. Gordon Nettleton, 2611 E. Southlake Blvd., Grapevine 76051
 Mrs. Donald L. Nichols, 2707 Ripplesprings Ct., Arlington 76016
 Mrs. T. W. Padgett, 2005 Mill Creek Dr., Arlington 76010
 Mrs. W. H. Patterson, 2005 Arbrook Blvd., Arlington 76015
 Mrs. D. Phillips, 1205 Todd Tr., College Station 77840
 Bethany I. Picard, 16018 Havenhurst, Houston 77059
 * Mrs. O. G. Pierson, 5629 Westcreek Dr., Ft. Worth 76133
 Mrs. Bill Pinion, 303 W. Saunders, League City 77573
 Mrs. Jesse R. Pittman, 12406 Alexandria, San Antonio 78233

Mrs. Aubrey C. Powell, 3316 Glade Rd., Grapevine 76051
 Mrs. Charles Ramser, 2413 Martin, Wichita Falls 76308
 Mrs. M. L. Ray, 1206 Austin Ave., College Station 77840
 Mrs. Bruce Reidel, 3635 Ingleside, Dallas 75229
 Mrs. Larry Rexilius, 6014 Dellfern St., Houston 77035
 Mrs. Robert Riquelmy, 4813 Saxon, Bellaire 77401
 Mrs. Mollie Ritchie, 4608 Birch, Bellaire 77401
 Mrs. Martin E. Roberts, 14823 Oak Bend Dr., Houston 77079
 Mrs. Jimmy Robinson, 3220 Amherst, Dallas 75225
 Mrs. Iris Rudeseal, 4413 McArthur Cir., Brownwood 76801
 Mrs. B. A. Russell, 5926 Jackwood, Houston 77074
 Mrs. Grace G. Rynders, 4438 Abbott Ave., Dallas 75205
 Cherokee Schlageter, 2001 Horn Rd., Lot 7, Bay City 77414
 Mrs. Howard H. Schneider, 666 Cross St., New Braunfels 78130
 Mrs. G. W. Smith, Route 1, Box 17-C, Rockwall 75087
 Mrs. Larry Spengler, 154 Sullivan, San Antonio 78213
 Mrs. W. B. Stallings, 3709 Glenmont Dr., Ft. Worth 76133
 Mrs. N. Ruth Steele, Six Hibury, Houston 77024
 Mrs. Beulah B. Stewart, 3301 Austin, Corpus Christi 78411
 Mrs. Fay M. Stoner, 448 Crestover Cr., Richardson 75080
 W. A. Stoner, 448 Crestover Cr., Richardson 75080
 * Mrs. George D. Yantis, 224 Montclair Dr., Corpus Christi 78412
 Mrs. Sharon Thornhill, 161 Faubion Dr., Georgetown 78626
 Pamela Truehardt, 263 Lanark, San Antonio 78218
 Mrs. Byron Turner, 802 Lemm Ct., Spring 77373
 Mrs. Tommy Valenta, 806 Floradale, Austin 78753
 Mrs. J. M. Walbrick, 5235 Kingston Dr., Wichita Falls 76310
 Mrs. Florence C. Walker, 406 Pebble Brook Dr., Seabrook 77586
 Julie Wehle, 20331 Allegro Shores, Humble 77338
 Mrs. T. L. Wheeler, 1015 Plymouth Rd., Dallas 75208
 Mrs. Susan Whitaker, 10339 Ferguson Rd., Dallas 75228
 Mrs. Alvin L. Whitfield, 2511 Wedgale, #1002, Dallas 75211
 Mrs. Bill Whitehead, 601 Kipling, Waco 76710
 Mrs. J. J. Wiesner, 533 Olmos Dr., E, San Antonio 78212
 Mrs. J. B. Wilson, 3900 Carter Creek Pkwy., Bryan 77801
 Nancy Ann Wilson, 446 Schmeltzer Lane, San Antonio 78213
 Mrs. Fred Young, 1400 Lorrain, Austin 78703
 Mrs. Bill Zmeskal, 1330 Peterson Dr., Corpus Christi 78412

UTAH

Mrs. Gerald E. Dolan, R. F. D. #2, Box 354, Brigham City 84302
 Vickie G. Fuller, 3285 S. 4000, W, Granger 84120
 * Mrs. John H. Jones, 1786 Millcreek Way, Salt Lake City 84106
 Mrs. Harold R. Money, 824 S. 3rd West, Brigham City 84302
 Maureen B. Roberts, 4590 Nobhill, Granger 84120
 Mrs. Robert M. Savage, 3822 S. 2860 E, Salt Lake City 84109
 Mary Schultz, 1122 E 6th N., Bountiful 84010

VERMONT

J. Fred Brenner, 6 Rolling Acres Rd., Rt. 3, Middlebury 05753

VIRGINIA

† * Mrs. Mary A. Boland, 6415 Wilcox Court, Alexandria 22310
 * Mrs. Alberta Lee Cooke, 1930 Kennedy Dr., Apt. T-1, McLean 22101
 Doris N. Dukes, 8436 Thames St., Springfield 22151
 Grace O. Fields, Rt. 1, Box 166, Trevilians 23170
 Mary Ann Giegerelli, 2710 Viking Dr., Herndon 22070
 Mrs. Ralph E. Gill, 7306 Franklin Road, Annandale 22003
 Laurene Jones, 3430 Luttrell Rd., Annandale 22003
 Carl D. Martin, 14300 Bowman Ct., Woodbridge 22193
 † * Mrs. Thos. B. McKneely, 6135 Tompkins Dr., McLean 22101
 * Opal L. Nuyianes, 12808 Thompson Rd., Fairfax 22043
 Mrs. Julis E. Rodriguez, 7434 High Road, Falls Church 22043
 † * Mrs. Stanley E. Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church 22041
 Judith Stroske, 7314 Jarvis St., Springfield 22151
 Mrs. Robert Vidrick, 10405 Windingridge Cir., Richmond 23233

WASHINGTON

* Mrs. Marlin Freter, 1118 23rd Ave., Longview 98632
 Craig A. Martin, Box 266, APO Seattle 98736
 * Mrs. E. A. Peterson, 2256 Cascade W., Longview 98632

WISCONSIN

Mrs. Jean Achauer, 7818 W. Lynmar Ct., Milwaukee 53222
 Miss Jeannette Achauer, 7818 W. Lynmar Ct., Milwaukee 53222
 Miss Jeannine Achauer, 7818 W. Lynmar Ct., Milwaukee 53222
 Mrs. Roy Bartel, 6409 W. Wilbur Ave., Milwaukee 53220
 Mrs. David E. Buchta, 2822 Michigan Blvd. Racine 53402
 Howard O. Burns, 4933 W. Colonial Court, Greenfield 53220
 Barbara Goral, 132 Joan Ave., Green Bay 54302
 Mrs. Marilyn Corlew, 4535 N. Cramer St., Whitefish Bay 53211
 Mrs. Leon Fiedler, Rt. 1, Prescott 54021
 Mrs. Arthur W. Geisler, 1516 East Olive St., Milwaukee 53211
 Wm. R. Goetzke, 36933 Valley Rd., Oconomowoc 53066
 Mrs. Chris Kemmerling, 3157 S 47 St., No. 8, Milwaukee 53219
 Patricia A. Knott, 3122 S 20th St., Sheboygan 53081
 * Mrs. William Krogman, 1325 Parkway Drive, Brookfield 53005
 Mrs. Joseph Leider, Jr., 743 Vine St., Union Grove 53182
 Mrs. L. B. Mengsol, 5616 W. Cairdel Lane, Mequon 53092
 * Mrs. Irene P. Merrell, 409 Hillendale Dr., Oconomowoc 53066
 Virginia Oakland, 6225 S 120th St., Hales Corners 53130
 Mrs. Frank Olsen, 1221 Troy Drive, Madison 53704
 Mrs. Suzanne L. Penni, S41, W27098 Oak Grove Ln., Waukesha 53186
 Mrs. Shirley A. Rice, 1334 Lang Rd., Oconomowoc 53066
 Mrs. John F. Roe, 4417 Boulder Terrace, Madison 53711
 Fred Scudder, 1929 Walton Ln., Beloit 53511
 Mrs. Fred Scudder, 1929 Walton Lane, Beloit 53511
 Mrs. William A. Wall, 4742 Lafayette Dr., Madison 53705
 Mrs. Walter L. Wink, W214 N5380 Adamdale Dr., Menomonee Falls 53051

A Visit in Prison

Brown Thumb African Violet Society members go to prison!!

Sounds a bit disturbing, doesn't it? But fortunately, the members were visitors and not residents, taking part in a "Faith at Work" program for the inmates at the Wisconsin State Reformatory in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

One evening, Lynn Van Beckum, the president, and Barbara Goral, vice president, participated in this Reformatory-sponsored program along with a group of men and women from two area churches. For security reasons, they were asked to keep the club's group small.

There were 16 inmates present, all voluntarily, and quite an interesting and enthusiastic group they were! The inmates began the evening with a reading of the poem, called "The Creation," while appropriate color slides were shown simultaneously. The poem deals with the creation of the world and God's gift of nature's beauty to man.

With this thought in mind, Barbara and Lynn made a successful effort to blend their information on violets and their culture with the inmate's poem and slide presentation. Barbara brought along several original violet species and gave a short talk on the origin of the African violet. Since many of the men present were Black, she thought the background of the first violet species would be especially interesting. Barbara also stressed the thought that through their God-given talents, individuals are

capable of and have been able to improve upon those plants that God has given one to care for an love. She showed many different species, pointing out distinctive colorful blossoms and plant characteristics. Barbara also showed a "pregnant" plant, which caused a stir among the men and Barbara had to explain a bit about seed propagation through cross-pollination.

Lynn spoke briefly on propagation by leaf cuttings through rooting in water or using a planter mix. Two very willing inmates then helped her demonstrate how to set down leaves in soil. She also passed around a leaf with new "babies" just pushing through the soil, to show the ease with which new plants can be produced.

At this point, you readers may be thinking that this was a well-planned and smoothly run demonstration and talk. Quite the contrary! The inmates (and guests) interrupted with so many interesting questions that Barbara and Lynn kept losing their train of thought and finally just answered as many questions as possible before the close of their part of the evening's program. AVSA brochures were passed out, also several violet plants, and the leaves the inmates helped to set down were given to the men to keep. These plants will be cared for and watched by the inmates in a classroom at the Reformatory, since the men are not allowed plants in their cells. The interest of the inmates in the violets was so great that even after the evening was over and they were waiting to be returned to their cells, they still continued to ask Barbara and Lynn many questions.

These club members so enjoyed themselves on their unique adventure that they, and others in the club are anxious to be invited back to the Reformatory at some future date.



GET AWARDS: Leila Egenites, show chairman, (center) is shown presenting awards to Anne Lee (left) for best in show, 'Mary D' and Martha Tucker, (right) for second best in show, 'Pink 'N Ink'. The awards were won at the 24th annual show, "Treasure Chest of Violets", held by the Long Island AVS.



Musings from the "Mini-Mam"

Mrs. Sidney (Ellie) Bogin
Chr. Miniature and Semimini Class
39 Boyd Street
Long Beach, NY 11561

Spring Show Winners:

AVSA, Austin, Texas; Best Mini, 'Little Rascal', Marie Dattalo.

AVS of Pensacola, Pensacola, FL: Best mini, 'Midget Bon Bon', Babs Stuck; best semi, 'Little Jim', Joycelin Bethany.

AVS of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA: Best mini, 'Baby Dear', best semi, 'Daisy Doll', AVSA Collection (purple rosette), 'Baby Dear', 'Baby Pink', 'Tiny Fantasy', Mrs. Natalie Capriotti.

AVS of Springfield, Springfield, PA: Best mini, 'Pink Dreamin'', best of show, best semi, 'Little Sweetheart', Queen of show, AVSA Collection (gold rosette), 'Double Take', 'Tiny Fantasy', 'Tiny Blue', Emilee McLaughlin.

Bama Belles AVS, Opelika, AL: best mini, 'Coco', best semi, 'Wild Lemon', Junior Queen, Mrs. Shirlee Sands.

Columbus AVS, Columbus, OH: best mini, 'Midget Valentine', Emilee Savage, best semi, 'Icicle Trinket', Fran Lane.

Jefferson AV Assoc., Metairie, LA: best mini, 'Blue Sprite', Laurie Peters; best semi, 'Dora Baker', Linda Peters Deichmann.

Long Island AVS, Freeport, NY: best mini single, 'Midget Valentine', Cherie Block; best mini double, 'Wee Admiration', Sandy Weynand; best semi, 'Sparky', best NYSAVS Collection, (minis) 'Lil Surprise', 'Wee Lass', 'Little Rascal', best NYSAVS Collection (semis) 'Bit o' Luck', 'Little Angel', 'Sparky', Martha Tucker; best NYSAVS Collections (semis-commercial) 'Irish Angel', 'Corky', 'Little Jim', Leila Eginetes.

Metropolitan St. Louis AVS, St. Louis, MO: best mini, 'Humpty Dumpty', best collection, 'Humpty Dumpty', 'Midget Valentine', 'Double Green', Mrs. Robert Laske; best semi, 'Cruncher', Mrs. Vernon Kloepper.

North Shore AVS, Greenlawn, NY: best mini, 'Giggles', best semi, 'Oddfellow', Gail Puskas.

Rhode Island AVS, Cranston, RI: best mini, 'Toy Clown', Janet Zahn.

Sweetwater AVS, Hauppauge, NY: best mini, 'Midget Flame', Betty Ruth; second best in show, best variegated, best semi, 'Icicle Trinket', Sue Terrel; best NYSAVS Collection (mini) 'Little Red', 'Silver Bells', 'Midget Valentine', Betty Ruth.

The AVS of Staten Island, Staten Island, NY: best

mini, 'Little Eva', best semi, 'Little Chrissy', Ray Dooley; best NYSAVS Collection (minis) 'Tippy Pink', 'Tiny Gypsy', 'Tip Toe', Ann Dooley.

The AVS of Syracuse, Syracuse, NY: best mini, 'Midget Midnight', Barbara Hubbard; best mini (commercial), 'Midget Ringer', Ethel Champion.

You can see by the above winning plants, a Gold rosette, a Purple rosette, a couple of best in shows, that our minis are starting to give the standards a run for their money. I do hope I have not hurt anyone's feelings by leaving out second bests or runner-ups. There is just so much room allotted.

I have judged and visited many shows this spring and have a few comments to make that I hope will help make it easier to judge the minis.

The rule of thumb that a plant be approximately one-third of the pot size does not apply to the minis. A 6" mini plant can be shown in a 2½" pot with pleasing results. Of course, tinier plants might need a 2¼" pot. Square pots do nothing for the appearance of the plants and may give the impression that they are overpotted. Semiminatures shown in 3" regular size pots are definitely overpotted. They do not need that extra soil and look more compatible in the 3" squatty pots.

Plants in unusual, pretty etc. containers are judged in the horticultural division. They are judged as horticultural specimens with the addition of points for relationship to the container. The question of how should the minis and semis be judged in that class came up in Texas and was discussed with Mrs. Carey and about 10 other judges. Without exception, the answer was that the minis and semis, being judged as horticultural specimens, must not exceed their size limitations. They would not be judged. They are treated the same way any oversize mini or semi is treated in the regular classes.

For some reason, there are judges who are exceptionally hard in their judging of the minis or semis. No plant in the show should be judged any harder than any other, including the collection plants. It is easy for an experienced judge to go down the line and say blue, red, red, white, etc. When a plant, at first glance, does not seem to be a blue ribbon winner, the judge should take the time to see if they really can take off 11 points to take it out of the blue class. The exhibitor is owed a certain amount of consideration for the time and effort that has been put into a plant.

I do not recommend not giving reds or whites. I feel the plant should be looked over carefully. We should look for beauty not for flaws. If flaws are found, it is important to let the exhibitor know why, in a pleasant way, so they may learn. However, sometimes there is only a minute difference between giving the plant a blue or a red. We should try, whenever possible, to give the exhibitor the benefit of the doubt.

As an example, our handbook says minis should have six to 12 blooms. It should also state, according to variety and to the size of the plant. A perfectly formed rosette on a tiny, tiny plant in a two-inch pot with only three fresh blooms should deserve a blue. Our Judge's Handbook gives us guidelines and it is up to each judge to apply these guidelines with reason and fairness.

Have a happy summer!

The 1975 Miniature and Semiminiature Culture and Variety list is available from me at the cost of \$2.00. Canadian members please use United States postal money orders. Please make checks or money orders out to AVSA not me or my husband. The 1976 and 1977 supplements will be included. IF YOU ALREADY HAVE THE LIST and want either or both supplements, send me a LARGE SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE. Do not staple checks to the letter.

TERRARIUMS

Roger Strickland
15980 Yellow Brick Road
Valley Center, CA 92082

Some of the chief cultural recommendations for terrariums are light, humidity, watering and fertilization. Consider these if you are interested in terrariums:

Light: Terrariums may be grown under fluorescent lights or close to a window, but should **never** be in direct sunlight. The rapid heat buildup will cook the plants.

Humidity: High humidity is automatically provided by any terrarium which is closed or nearly closed — and how the plants love it!

Watering: Plants in a terrarium require surprisingly little water in their root zone. Overwatering is the biggest problem. We have had the most success with barely moist soil in nearly closed terrariums. Closed terrariums may not need watering for months. If the terrarium lacks drainage holes, we recommend using rain water or distilled water.

Fertilization: We fertilize terrariums very sparingly, if at all. The plants get along well, and we usually don't want to encourage maximum growth.

More details may be found in Brooklyn Botanic Garden Handbook #78 (See page 8).

You Can Grow African Violets

You can grow African violets!

If you don't believe that, then read Irene Lineberg's book, "You Can Grow African Violets." Ms. Lineberg lives at 3459 East Street, in Birmingham, AL 35243 and you'll be delighted at the way it's written. It's really a beginner's personal experience in growing African violets.

Ms. Lineberg points out that the book is for everyone who wants to grow African violets and says that it is designed primarily for individuals interested in African violet culture for the first time, be it for fun or profit. It's her opinion, too, that the successful gardener need not be an expert, but should glean from the experts the knowledge that will guide him.

"Violets are easy to grow," she says. "All it takes is a little patience and lots of tender loving care."

She tells of her first experience with violets in 1965 as she declares, "Those poor violets didn't have a chance." They died. It was in 1975 that she started raising violets with any degree of success. She started reading everything she could find about African violets. To add to her book knowledge she talked with successful growers of violets.

Now she thinks she's finally learned the basic "do's" and "don'ts" of growing this beautiful houseplant. She has 3,000 of her own and, as she says, she wrote the book to explain her growing techniques and methods in hopes it will spare other growers the agony and heartbreak she experienced.

In the book she tells of the tools of the trade, pots, soil, rooting trays, fertilizers, watering, lighting, insects and diseases, spraying, grooming propagation and repotting. The book is illustrated with sketches of the "whys" of doing certain things.

Did You Know . . .

That AVSA has 434 judges and that 31 judging schools were held in 1978 in 17 states and Canada, according to Ruth Carey, chairman of shows and judges? Also that judging schools are being held or will be held this year in Texas, New York, Mexico, Wisconsin, Georgia and Florida!

USE RIGHT POT!

Have you ever tried to wear a shoe two or three sizes too large? If you have, then think of what your African violet is undergoing when it's in a pot two or three sizes too large!

African Violet Trailers

*Carl D. Martin
5030 N. W. 183 St.
Opa-Locka, FL 33055*

I stole a hobby! And I must confess I would do it again!

After helping my 22-year-old wife, Patricia, collect soil and pot her three first houseplants (African violets) I sat back and waited for them to die, for she had had no experience with plants of any kind. But behold, there in her kitchen window with ample light and humidity, flowers, not one but masses! Amazed I purchased her another, then another. Then I got her a book on African violets and found rooting leaves and hybridizing very interesting. So I put down 20 leaves in vermiculite as the book instructed and was 100% successful.

Next came lights suspended under my pool table; then a shelf 12' x 3' with lights; next a 12' x 14' greenhouse, etc . . . etc. . . .

Four months after I started, I found out that there was an African Violet Society in Miami. We joined. (From the book I joined AVSA). Six months later I took first and second place in the annual show.

Now with much more experience I am a certified judge, an amateur hybridizer, and have given talks about growing seedlings, and one on growing trailing African violets.

Of course, when I was asked to make a talk on growing trailing African violets, with which I've had good success, I found so little information on them. So I combined my experience with what was written in Ruth Carey's "Judges' Handbook" and a little logic and have come up with the following observations on trailers:

Trailing African violets are usually hybrids of the *S. Grotei* species, one of the *Saintpaulia* species.

The overall size of the standard trailer is from 7" - 15".

Semiminiatures no larger than 10" - 12" with smaller leaves than standard.

Miniature's should not exceed 8" - 10" (size standards set by AVSA)

REQUIREMENTS

A good strong light but not direct sun light.

A good sterilized African violet soil.

Slightly heavier fertilizing than standard African violets.

A pot uniform with the size of the plant.

Humidity of 40% or above.

Uniformly moist soil.

Keep plant free of dust and dirt by misting and dusting regularly (do not mist while plant is in bright sunlight).

Spraying with pesticides periodically, (Using only those recommended as safe for African violets).

Keep plants pruned and groomed of yellowed or damaged leaves.

PROPAGATION

Propagation by leaf, or by rooting trailing branches that have been removed while pruning. Propagation by seed will not come true to variety but can be entered in seedling class in shows and is a very interesting aspect of growing African violets, because no two seedlings will be the same. Leaves and trailing branches can be rooted in water, vermiculite, perlite, soil, or any good rooting medium. Remove plantlets from parent leaves when plantlets are from 2" - 3" tall and pot them in no larger than 2" pots, (1½ pots preferred if available).

PRUNING

Pruning should begin when plant has 4 - 8 mature leaves (depending on variety). Pinch out the center (crown of central stock) carefully as to not damage stems of mature leaves being left on central stock. Examine carefully and remove all baby leaves (the smaller leaves with paler stems, which supported the plant in its earlier development) and all trailing stems that the baby leaves are trying to produce, for they will be weak and slow in growth.

By pinching out the center the plant will produce a trailing stem per mature leaf giving all trailing stems the same age and producing even uniform growth around the pot, and by the trailing stems being the same age they should all bloom together.

CAUTION: After pinching the center and removing the baby leaves with the trailing stems, do not spray with pesticides, foliar feed, or mist until the pinched out crown has had time to heal over, at least 24 hours, 7 days for pesticides.

Pruning should be done while plant is in established potted condition. Do not prune plant that is

to be repotted, and do not repot freshly pruned plant.

GROWING FOR SHOW

A show plant should have at least three trailing branches from one central stock with only one plant in a pot. The overall size of the plant should be in proportion with the size of the pot. The trailing branches may hang over the side of the pot, but not in a vine like manner. There should be no bare stocks showing through the leaves. All yellowed, spotted, or damaged leaves and trailing stems should be removed. Trailers are judged for form rather than symmetry. Grooming encourages new growth and more uniform growth.

The number of blooms should be in proportion to the size of the plant according to the variety, and as large as the variety will allow. Blossoms must be open, with good coloring and all spent or faded blossoms removed.

Any show plant must be labeled properly.
Pots should be clean, and properly covered if specified.

THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
OF AMERICA, INCORPORATED
STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS
AND DISBURSEMENTS

Year Ended February 28

	1978	1977
RECEIPTS:		
Memberships:		
New.....	\$ 48,332	50,152
Renewals.....	115,229	86,716
Other.....	8,773	7,778
	<u>172,334</u>	<u>144,646</u>
Advertising.....	16,446	11,534
Back issues.....	2,575	1,835
Research.....	5,037	3,835
Judge's handbook.....	489	—
Library rentals.....	2,010	1,226
Plant registrations.....	949	599
Variety lists.....	7,681	5,885
Binders.....	2,602	1,589
Booster fund.....	601	677
Interest (Less \$624 and \$528 transferred to life membership receipts, respectively).....	10,535	8,200
Emblems.....	2,805	2,403
Conventions.....	3,888	8,294

Cultural folders.....	2,192	2,546
Entry tags.....	510	493
Semiminiatures & miniatures list.....	1,280	1,239
Shows and judges.....	223	99
Foreign exchange (loss)..... (32)	14
Other.....	1	113
	<u>232,126</u>	<u>195,217</u>
Total Receipts.....	\$232,126	195,217

DISBURSEMENTS:

Magazine.....	109,931	90,224
Services and payroll taxes...	32,688	28,408
Office supplies & expenses...	5,102	4,441
Office equipment.....	1,023	4,980
Annual business meeting...	597	624
Variety lists.....	3,732	16,421
Judge's handbook.....	4,319	—
Postage.....	13,423	11,186
Conventions.....	1,067	1,088
Rent.....	3,600	2,798
Committees.....	5,649	4,214
Cultural folders.....	316	6,973
Emblems.....	2,576	1,411
Professional services.....	750	700
Binders.....	2,128	1,097
Officers' expenses.....	617	792
Research grant & expenses...	4,180	239
Entry tags.....	1,185	—
Semiminiatures and miniatures list.....	—	41
	<u>192,883</u>	<u>175,637</u>

EXCESS OF RECEIPTS

OVER DISBURSEMENTS..	<u>39,243</u>	<u>19,580</u>
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AV Clinic Is
Held by Affiliate

The Lakes and Hills AVS of Florida held their second African violet clinic with 83 attending. These clinics are geared to educate anyone interested in learning more of the culture of African violets but who do not wish to join an organization. It is a part of the "educational program" of this society and has met with such great success that it will probably become an annual event. Several people evidenced sufficient interest to join the society. Mrs. J. A. W. Richardson gave a talk on the basic needs of growing African violets successfully, and Mrs. M. B. Mansfield gave a demonstration on "necking" and dividing plants. Free plantlets and leaves were given to everyone attending, and light refreshments were served. There was also an excellent educational display set up by Mrs. Mansfield.

YOUR LIBRARY

Harvey L. Stone
51 Peach Highlands
Marblehead, MA 01945



I think that those of you who were at the Austin convention will agree that it is going to be a hard one to beat! There were well over 1,000 persons registered! Workshops averaged 400-600 in attendance! Did you take the all day tour to San Antonio and the Alamo? How about that super lunch on the way back? If only we'd had time to tour the gardens surrounding the restaurant! And what about that boat trip up the river that same evening for a Texas style barbecue? What a day! There were other tours, too, which time did not permit me to take but I'm sure all who took them enjoyed them. Thanks are due all the wonderful Texas folks who were our hosts and hostesses.

This year we added several names to the roster of those people dedicated to bringing you the best possible slide programs from your library. After a busy day Thursday, we worked all night. Photographers included Committee Vice Chairman, Russ Marshall, Joan Aubuchon, Tony Crisafulli, Marion & Jack Doherty, Gayle Gill, Lois Russell, Louise Smith and Joan Van Zele. Of course, Frank Burton worked on possible future covers for the magazine, ably assisted by Dorothy Burton, Anne Tinari, Grace Foote, Gus Becker, and hostess Mollie Ritchie. Other assistants included committee members Mary Boland, Haradelle Downing, Penny Brenner and Nancy Hayes as well as Bobbie Close, Estelle Crane, Jessie Crisafulli, Charles Henry, Barbara Jacobs, Michael Luongo, Helen Marshall, Betty Williams, Barbara Goral, Rose Howlett, Barbara Jacobs, Barbara McGrath, Irene Merrell, Kathy Spissman and Adeline Krogman.

I'm sure I have missed somebody but my thanks to everyone of you. It isn't too early to plan to help your library in Denver next year — we need more photographers to insure a complete record of all top-prize winners.

Ethel Champion's new introductions program, "What's Great for '78", presented after the Thursday luncheon, brought many ohs and ahs. This will be available through the library as, "Violets At The Alamo". We continue to be grateful to the Champions and other commercial growers/hybridizers for contributing the slides for these programs. We would like to add still other hybridizers. These and other programs as listed in your June magazine are available from the AVSA library, Knoxville Office, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, TN 37901. Please follow

the instructions in that magazine when ordering slides or any other program.

The Knoxville office reports they were unable to fill all requests, particularly for the popular St. Louis program, "Third Time Around", last year. We are making one extra copy of the "Deep In The Heart of Texas" program available this year to try to alleviate this problem. If experience again indicates a short supply, we'll try to add still another from the Denver Convention in '79.

My special thanks to Joan Van Zele for her generous donation of film to be used for Library slide programs.

One year ago I mentioned in this column the possibility of developing Regional slide programs which might include all major shows in an area, through cooperation in the field. Some interest has been evidenced, particularly in the Maryland and mid-west areas. If you are interested in developing one for your area, please write me.

There are new yearbook packets available for browsing. Did your club enter its yearbook at Austin? If you would like to see the top prize winners for 1978, borrow one of these packets. The June magazine lists packets A, B & C. This is an error, so please correct your magazine and just request "the year book" packet when you write Knoxville. If you would like to enter your club's yearbook in competition at the Denver convention, please send two copies to Mrs. Anne Lee, 16 Tinder Lane, Levittown, NY 11759. The yearbooks should be sent to her before March 1, 1979. If you want acknowledgement of her receiving the yearbooks, please send self-addressed postal.

Four new packets, containing one sample issue from each affiliate Newsletter/Magazine exhibit displayed at the Austin convention show, are available now from the AVSA library. Each packet is different and more than one packet may be requested, if desired. Requests for more than one packet will be filled whenever possible. Refer to the June African Violet Magazine (p. 33) for regulations concerning the use of library packets and for the fee which is required when requesting reservations.

If you publish a newsletter or magazine, you may have a copy of the revised (April 15, 1978) scale of points for judging. If your editor did not receive a copy of the revised scale after the Austin convention, send a sample copy of your publication and enclose a

SASE with your request for a copy of the scale of points to Publications Chairman, Mrs. W. F. Anderson.

Your Library committee wishes each and every one of you good growing.

Supported by Boyce Edens Funds

Research Work Continuing At Penn State University

Research work is continuing at Penn State University under the direction of Dr. Richard Craig, associate professor of plant breeding, according to Frank Tinari, chairman of AVSA Research committee. The work is being supported by the Boyce Edens Research Fund.

Here is Dr. Craig's report given at the AVSA convention in Austin:

Our reserach is now in its fourth year and the continuing support of the African Violet Society is gratefully acknowledged. We feel that the research has made a significant contribution to the fund of knowledge of this genus.

I. Fifty-six cultivars and twenty-seven species of African violets were subjected to gamma irradiation treatment by Steve Hampson from Long Island, New York. Steve is completing his work for a Master of Science Degree in Horticulture. Of the 4278 plants produced from treated leaf cuttings, 491 (11.5%) exhibited at least one mutant characteristic. Mutation frequencies of the cultivars and species ranged from 0 to 38.2%.

Mutations were grouped into seven classes. The class with the highest frequency of occurrence was leaf size, followed by flower size, plant form, leaf form, leaf color, flower form and flower color. Specific examples are illustrated in Penn State's Educational exhibit at this convention.

Many mutant plants possessed undesirable characteristics; however, we observed several mutants which show potential for immediate release as new cultivars. Often a single plant exhibited both desirable and undesirable traits. The mutations resulting from this research will provide valuable germplasm for future improvement of African violets.

II. As a continuation of this research, all mutant plants are being asexually propagated to determine the stability of the mutations and for distribution to African violet breeders. This work is being conducted by Beverly Gatzke a graduate student from Alaska, who is working on her Master of Agriculture

Degree in Horticulture. Beverly is comparing propagation characteristics of all parent and mutant plants. In addition, she has developed an extensive review of the literature on African violet propagation.

III. Victor Amoah, a graduate student from Ghana, Africa, is studying the reproductive behavior of all parent and mutant plants. As part of his Master of Science Degree thesis, he will produce self-pollinated seed on each plant. Victor will ultimately observe the germination rate and percentage of each seed lot. The seedlings resulting from his research will be used to detect any additional mutations which may not have been evident in the asexually propagated plants. It is anticipated that we will observe over 50,000 seedlings over the next several years.

IV. Betty Roberts, who received her B.S. degree last year, has published the results of her African violet research in the December issue of *Plant Disease Reporter*. It is entitled "Susceptibility of certain Saintpaulia species and cultivars to bacterial blight". In her study she observed the disease reaction of 37 accessions to *Erwinia chrysanthemi*. 'Apollo Pink' and 'Athena' were most resistant indicating that they should be used for breeding more resistant cultivars in the future. We acknowledge the valuable assistance of Dr. Douglas Garwood of the Department of Horticulture and several faculty members of the Department of Plant Pathology including Dr. Paul E. Nelson, Dr. William Merrill and Dr. B. W. Pennypacker.

V. Detailed results from these research projects will be published in future issues of the *African Violet Magazine*.

TRY THIS!

African violets will tolerate some hot weather above 80° but will do better if placed in a cool spot. If you use fluorescent lights for your plants try burning them at night and keep your plants cool and dark during the hottest part of the day.

By A. Mini

Congratulate Me! I'm a Mother!

Montine (Monty) Dale
1432-W 103rd Ave.
Denver, CO 80221

Dear Friends: I've just experienced the miracle of motherhood and, as I promised you, I'll tell you about it.

Without Mama, I would no doubt still be a seed, but she was confident I had a future so she planted me. From then until that memorable day when I won first place as the best Mini in the National Violet Show she gave me all the love and care one could ask.

The doors of the Convention Hall had hardly closed behind the last lingering on-looker when Mama hurried home with me as happy as a bee in a tar bucket.

Taking me into her workshop, she put me on the potting table and began making preparations for the arrival of my hoped-for baby. Humming softly, she put a 2½" squatty plastic cup on the table, an ice pick, a few small pieces from a broken clay pot, a razor blade, a pencil, a spoon, a bit of rootone, a pair of scissors, a small baggie®, and a dish of potting mix which she had already prepared. Using good potting soil, she had added a small amount of charcoal and enough perlite, vermiculite and peat moss to make a loamy mixture. Lastly she got a small container of WARM water.

Mama patiently explained every step she was taking. "First", she said, "I'll punch a few holes in the bottom of this cup with the ice pick—like so, Now I'll put a few pieces of the broken clay pot over the holes to allow for drainage. Your baby must never sit with its feet in water. Next I'll put about 1" of potting soil in the cup to give the roots a boost. Now I'll fill the cup with vermiculite in which the tiny roots will form and I'll dampen the mix" . . .

Now came the moment I had been dreading. Mama must have sensed that I was nervous. Smiling at me, she said reassuringly, "Now don't be afraid, my lovely, this won't hurt a bit." Very carefully she removed one of my leaves about halfway up from the bottom row. Using the razor blade, she cut off the stem about 1" below the leaf making the cut on a slant to the front of the leaf. Next she made a slanting hole in the dampened mix with the pencil, dipped the

leaf stem in rootone, inserted it in the hole (with it resting on the rim of the cup) and firmed the mix around it.

After putting a marker in the cup, she cut several holes in the baggie® to allow air to circulate then placed it over the cup. (Figure 1)

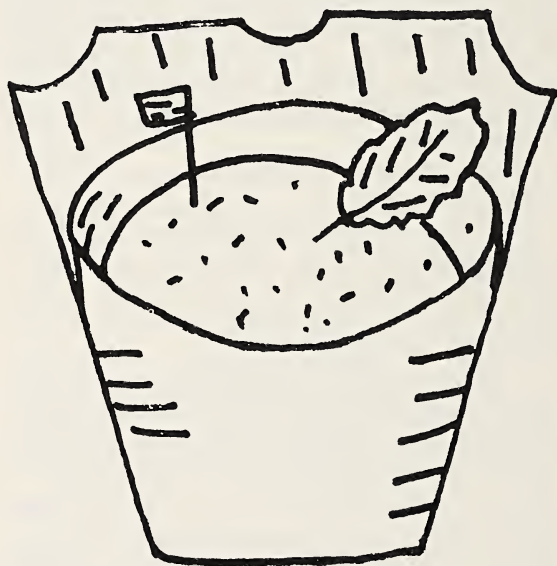


Figure 1

Mama grows her standard violets under a fluorescent light so she placed the cup at the end where the light was less intense. Looking at me, she smiled and nodded with satisfaction—and, I suspect, said a little prayer.

In about five weeks, a tiny plantlet appeared. Up to now, Mama had used plain water to keep the tiny roots moistened but now she began using a ¼ strength solution of African violet fertilizer whenever the soil was dry to the touch; being careful not to overwater which could cause the plantlet to rot. She contended a regular diet was better than overfeeding at intervals, and she NEVER used COLD water or any which had been TREATED.

When the plantlet was about 1½" tall, Mama replanted it in a cup the same size (2½") after cutting off the mother leaf. Now, replacing the baggie®, she put it back under the light until it was well established then she removed the baggie® and placed the

If you have articles, pictures or slides to be printed in the Magazine, send them to the Editor, NOT to the Knoxville office!

plantlet further under the light which was on 14 hours a day. (Figure 2)

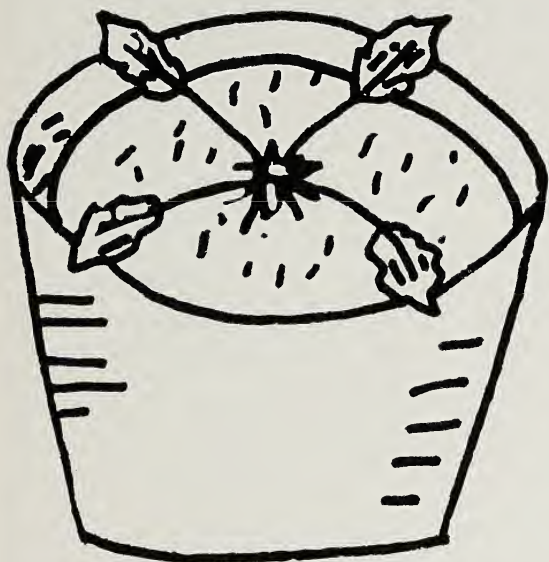


Figure 2

Mama was very careful to keep the temperature at 70 to 75 degrees with a 5 to 10 degree drop at night . . . and humidity at 50 to 60 degrees. Knowing that fresh air was very important to violets, she aired the room daily except in cold weather when she opened the windows in an adjacent room allowing the air to warm before reaching the violet room.

Mama bought several, minis/semis to keep me company during my waiting period. To name a few . . .

Little Cupcake — Truly a little queen with its lovely crown of coral blossoms on dark slightly quilted foliage.

Little Red — A sassy little fellow with perky red blossoms held high over dark plain foliage.

Toy Clown — Oh! Oh! What do we have here? — one purple blossom and one lavender fantasy! — I

must be seeing things.

Little Black Sambo — An oldie but such a sweetheart — large black-wine blossoms on dark foliage.

Little Lou — A precious little eye-catcher with its double purplish blue blossoms on Tommie Lou foliage.

Mama and I kept daily watch over the little plantlet. Then one day I heard Mama squeal! It had happened! There before my very eyes was MY BABY LOOKING AT ME! (Figure 3)



Figure 3

Now that I have experienced the miracle of motherhood — what does the future hold in this world of miracles — a YELLOW VIOLET? If I find the answer, perhaps I shall write my autobiography; 'til then — good-bye dear friends — take care — God Bless!

Sincerely yours, A Mini

THREE CHEERS FOR PROCRASTINATION!

Jean Blair
Route 2, Box 163
Franklin, PA 16323

DID YOU KNOW . . .

That Doreen Vander Tuin and Anne K. Christensen are now the new chairmen of the African Violet Correspondence Club, succeeding Donna Clawson and Yvonne Schenfield, organizers of the club? The club has resumed printing a bimonthly newsletter, "African Violets Come Chatting." The club was organized to get African violet growers corresponding with each other. Inquiries concerning the club are being handled by Anne Christensen, Box 628, Point Arena, CA 95468.

I own a large number of ancient clay pots. They were encrusted with layers of salts. I put a number of them to soak in my laundry tubs, but remembering what hard work was involved in cleaning the previous stack, I seemed to find a lot of reasons for not getting to the chore. They soaked for nearly two weeks in soapy water. When I finally drove myself to the job, I found the pots washed clean and bright. As easily as washing the dishes! No scouring, no scrubbing!

Three cheers for procrastination!

**BAKER'S
AFRICAN VIOLETS**

Tucker, Ga.
(Photos by Grower)



APPASSIONATA

TRAIL BREAKER





SANIBEL

HYBRIDIZED AND PHOTOGRAPHED
by *Sandra Leary*

COQUINA



PORTRAITS

David and Eileen Masterson have only been into African violets a couple of years or so, but Architect Masterson has turned the entire upstairs front room into a haven for African violets.

"We didn't know tiddy-hoot about African violets when we started," he says in a drawl redolent of his native Missouri. "We didn't know about soil mixtures, pesticides or the humidity required, the proper foot candles of light. We were really novices. But then a Mrs. Foster took us under her wing. She handed us a box full of violets, and it became a contest to keep them alive as well as Mrs. Foster had done."

For David and Eileen, his Hawaiian-born wife, African violets seem like the perfect accompaniment to a life style. Their redecorated Victorian dating from 1871 is filled with antique doorknobs and buttons and pieces like a safe converted into a liquor cabinet and an ancient barber chair in which he likes to sit when friends come over to their house.

"What you do is join one of the clubs and start swapping leaves," David says. "It's like playing bingo on Saturday night at the church. Everybody brings little leaves in plastic baggies. Now it's our turn to give them away."

Violet people worry constantly about disease. "I used to bring her home cut flowers," David says. "I'd stop across the street from where I work and buy a nice clump of daisies and we'd put them on the table. But not since we started with violets. No more roses, no more daisies, no more nothing. All you need is a couple of infected flowers. The disease spreads, and there goes a lot of money and time you've got tied up in your violets."

The Mastersons would next like to try hybridizing plants. They know that the first person to produce a yellow Saintpaulia (it's never been done) will be famous in African violet circles. "We once thought we'd cross an African violet with a dandelion — that way we could get the yellow in," says Eileen. "We'd call it violion."

Her husband grins impishly. "The only problem is," he says, "once the flower dried up, you'd have seeds floating all over your silly house."

The recommendations of professional hybridizers, though, bother him. According to them, if a second generation hybrid doesn't come true — doesn't follow its parentage — you have to get rid of it.

"Why?" he demands, pounding the arm of the barber chair. "We're in this for our pleasure, aren't we? I don't give a damn if I've got the only plant in the world of its kind. It's my plant. I like it, I'll take care of it. Just because I can't give somebody a leaf

off of it doesn't mean it has to be destroyed."

Can raising African violets help a marriage?

"Well, it sure as hell can't hurt," David drawls. "You know, anything two people do together that they mutually enjoy can be beneficial to a marriage. Especially something that will get you out of the house once in a while. Sure, out of the house. Every time our friend with the garden store on Noriega has a new variety of African violet, we're in the car and driving there almost before he can hang up the phone."

And David sees African violets as the coming craze.

"After the War," he reasons, "it was children. That generation has come and gone. Now we've got Zero Population, which brought pets — cats, dogs — as substitutes. Well, someday people are going to get tired of cats and dogs."

He pauses for effect.

"And that'll be the day of the violet!"

Finds Orthene Toxic to AV

*By Ronn Nadeau
48 Queensbrook
St. Louis, MO 63132*

Orthene is very good for killing insects but I've found it does strange things to African violets. I set aside 10 plants and sprayed them with the insecticide at the recommended rate of 1 tablespoon per gallon of water. Everything looked fine for about 10 days. Then I noticed that the flower colors were much darker on the treated than on the untreated plants of the same variety. Other effects soon showed up. Leaves coming out of the center were growing very slowly and were long and narrow. New bud stems were also growing very slowly.

After a month the effects of Orthene treatment were dramatic: flowers were smaller than normal, did not open fully, and were much darker than normal; plant centers were poor and leaves were elongated. This happened to all of the treated plants but to none of the non-treated. Eventually, the test plants were discarded because I tired of waiting for them to recover.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: We are grateful for Mr. Nadeau's sharing his experience with us. However, numerous AV growers and hybridizers have and are using it. Could it be that the recommended amount is too strong for African violets?).



A Foote on the Violet Path

By Grace Foote

Did you ever fall flat on your back off a chair and break six back ribs — yes, I said SIX — then try to cover a convention in a wheelchair? 'Tain't easy! So if there were errors in the June Magazine, just blame them on pain and inability to use my left hand while typing up the convention happenings. Anyway it was a great convention in Austin though I didn't get around as much as usual . . . Alinor E. Ticknor, RD 1, Box 306, Central Square, NY 13036;, trying to locate the Saintpaulia species 'Goetzeanna' for her son, Barr, who is doing college research on African violets and needs a 'Goetzeanna'. Let her know if you have one or someone who does . . . Well, we've heard of a lot of things, but how's this one from a reader: "I have about 50 violets all in bloom. Here's what helps mine. When I wash a chicken I use the water on my violets. I've had real good luck." . . . We liked a suggestion made by Jack Simenc of Carbondale, CO that we print one, two or three pages of maybe 1/2 inch color pictures of the violets listed in The Best Varieties List so readers could see what they looked like. But I had to tell him the cost of these color pictures would be prohibitive . . . The St. Louis (MO) Saintpaulia Society donating \$50 from an auction to the Boyce Edens Research Fund and now since planning the 1978-79 program also including another auction for BERF next year. (We're sorry they were listed as Saintpaulia Society, MO instead of St. Louis Saintpaulia Society in the March magazine) . . . The browning of leaf ends and edges that occurs on many houseplants may be due to the low humidity, too much fertilizer, too much or too little water or too little light. But now comes word that these sensitive plants may be affected by the fluoride in fluoridated water, superphosphate fertilizer, German peat, and perlite. It was also said that maintaining soil pH between 6 and 6.5, which will make fluoride less available to the roots . . . Mildred Schroeder reporting at the AVSA Convention/Show in Austin that 30 new clubs were affiliated with AVSA this past year in spite of the fact we heard she'd been spending all the 1978 "bitter winter" gallivanting around New Zealand and other points in that part of the world. She was impressed with African violets there, declaring "They grow great 'A' violets here!" She visited a couple of clubs in Melbourne . . . I sure wish the publicity chairmen of all our affiliates would read our "Strictly Business—Your Business" page on the inside cover of

every magazine. If you didn't get your "Coming Events" in the June issue, it was because it reached me too late. We have deadlines, y'know . . . 81-year-old Katherine Lang of Rochester, NY delighted that her African violets weathered the weather as well as they did this past winter. She has one special favorite, 'Ophelia', a deep pink, which she associates with the opera "Ophelia". "Years ago when I was living in New York City, my parents always attended the opera and they would bring home the sheet music. "Ophelia" was one of the songs sung in the opera and it was always one of my favorites." . . . We're mighty glad to be of service to our readers by putting your helpful hints in the Magazine. Jan Schryer of Fraser, MI writes that in an article on grooming plants for shows it was suggested that "girl type" plants need their leaves thinned to promote blooming. "Well," she wrote, "I've been struggling with girl type 'Maria' for over a year. It has had only two small flowers. Only weeks after thinning the leaves, 'Maria' started blooming and has bloomed ever since with large semidouble and double flowers. Thanks!" That's the kind of letters we like to receive! . . . One last note of warning: When you're at an AVSA convention, be sure and stay when they're giving away prizes or awards. When the name of Ann Carpenter of Port Arthur, TX was called out, I was amused. I knew Ann had taken time out and was not in the banquet room. But she got her prize, the oil painting by Sandra Leary. Opal Looper and Julia Broussard saw to that.

AFRICAN VIOLET FEVER

By Ruth O. Brown

I raise African Violets . . . Oh yes, I do . . . It's a fascinating hobby . . . And you can have it too . . . Get yourself a violet . . . And out of the blue . . . You'll be starting leaves . . . And pretty soon, you'll have two . . . You'll soon find someone . . . With a plant to give away . . . And maybe a couple leaves . . . And she's just made your day! . . . Because by now, you see . . . Those violets have you in their power . . . Each new day you rush to see . . . If a new one has started to flower . . . Your popularity in the neighborhood . . . Will rise to great new heights . . . As folks drop in to see . . . "Your violets under lights"!

**FREDETTE
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AND
PHOTOS**



VERNA LYNN



DAYO

LITTLE JOAN

by
Isla Montgomery
Denver, Colorado



(Photo by Aleksandrowicz)

MILLIE BLAIR by Granger's



For Cut Leaves . . .

An Experiment in Powders

*Dr. Alvin W. Shultz
Suite 212, 4121 West 83rd Street
Prairie Village, KS 66208*

Preferring to root my leaves in water so as the root formation can be observed, I noticed quite a difference in the development time and condition of the cut end using different types of powders for root dip. Taking ten leaves from a large plant named 'Ladyship', the stems were cut to a length of 1½ inches and the tips cut on a 45 degree angle.

Five leaves were set aside to harden for one hour.

The other five leaves were dipped in the following powders: ferbam, ferbam and sulfur mixture, sulfur, rootone and proliferol. The fifth leaf was not dipped in anything. The leaves were placed immediately in room temperature water.

After the one hour wait, the other five leaves were dipped in the same powders with the fifth leaf nothing on it. The leaves were immediately placed in room temperature water.

The experiment was started on August 8 and the results were tabulated on September 14. The following results were observed: The leaves that were dipped in ferbam and ferbam sulfur mixture showed the most tissue destruction of the cut end and the poorest root formation. The tip ends became brown and mushy in appearance, with a few roots forming just above the root cut. The rootone and proliferol showed somewhat better root formation with a slight browning of the tip and the proliferol showing longer root formation. The ones with sulfur showed no browning of the tip and by far the longest and most root formation. Both untreated leaves also showed the most root formation with health cut ends. The conclusion is use of nothing or if you must, use sulfur.

NOTICE TO AFFILIATES

Lack of space in the September Magazine prevented publishing of Affiliate 'Appenings. Some were short—some unusually long—but they will be in the November Magazine. Sorry about both the writeups of your shows and your pictures. But these things do happen!

MAN ALIVE!

*Monte Pearce
877 E 300 N
Layton, Utah 84041*

Ever get yourself into a real "doozey" of a fix? As a neophyte African violet fancier and club member, innocent as a newborn lamb, I was sabotaged! The club president asked me to be chairman of our next annual African Violet Show. Very reluctantly, after much coaxing, I agreed. The reluctance was not from any desire to avoid participation in club affairs. It came from a knowledge of my complete ignorance in setting up and conducting a show. At least, I didn't start with any preconceived ideas, erroneous or otherwise.

Cautiously, in individual sessions, I consulted with a number of ladies who had years of experience as club officers, show chairwomen and as champion violet growers. Each one, in strictest confidence, told me of all the errors of past shows, of the partiality and unconcern of judges and of the scheming and underhanded acts of entrants. After correlating all these comments in my own mind, I was amazed! Amazed that (1) there had ever been a successful show produced, that (2) they still existed as a club and that (3) these ladies were still the good friends that they obviously are.

Several ladies offered to write the schedule for the show, guaranteeing to eliminate all past errors, inequities and iniquities. And, I suspected, slanting the whole show toward their own personal preferences. Finally, in my best and most practiced managerial manner, I pleaded my need for experience. To gain this, I would select the theme, write the schedule, appoint committees, enter a whole raft of violets and win all the sweepstake awards.

All my actions are proceeding post-haste toward that goal. Now the ladies can point all their animus, hostilities and complaints in my direction, as a united group. If I don't produce a really good show, there may be a lynching in Utah next spring!

Since then, most of the chief complainers have come to me, bearing offspring from their prize plants and offering to serve on any committee, wherever needed. Bless the ladies!

Names of newly elected officers are to be sent to the Affiliate Chairman, NOT to the Editor. Officers' names are printed ONLY in the November Magazine.

Fluorescent Light Gardening

Tom Seiler

2050 E. Orleans Street

Philadelphia, PA 19134

The two biggest advantages of fluorescent light gardening are that we can supply our plants with maximum growing conditions 24 hours a day for 365 days a year and it allows us to use any room in our home — bedroom, basement, attic, hallway, garage, closet, bookcase, table top, under cabinets, fireplaces — or any other place your imagination can devise. The only requirement is a source of electricity. Temperature, air circulation and humidity can all be supplied and controlled with electrical appliances. While it is not a requirement, a close source of water will save you a lot of steps.

A light garden can be as simple and economical or as elaborate, decorative and expensive as you wish. It can be started with a small 24-inch fixture and added to as our need or pocketbook dictates. Fluorescent fixtures come in standard sizes of 14, 36, 48, 72 or 96 inches in length. All sizes are being used with varying degrees of success. Anything under 48 inches is not economical: 72 and 96 inch fixtures are the best lengths. Twenty-four inch tubes are only 70% effective because of the poor light output on either end of the tubes. There are about 8 inches of relative ineffectiveness in a tube, 4 inches on either end. A 96 inch tube has only two ends, whereas two 48 inch tubes have four ends, or twice as much ineffectiveness. A pair of single channel 48 inch tubes placed about 12 inches apart and centered over an 18 or 20 inch bench will give you a growing area of 19 or 20 inches by the length of your fixture. They should be hung 6 to 12 inches above the plants. African violets are low light level plants needing only 15 watts per square foot of growing surface.

Fixtures can be purchased much cheaper without reflectors, but a reflector is important. It can be made from any light weight metal or even kitchen foil. The important thing is that it be shaped to reflect all the light down on your growing surface. It should also have a dull or flat finish for more even diffusion of light.

At the risk of inciting the ire of the lamp manufacturers, I am going to voice my opinion that the special growth lamps are a very unnecessary expense. They were developed primarily to meet a demand for tinted light. Their chief asset is, in my opinion, that they enhance the colors of our plants.

A tray about 2 inches deep to hold wet sand, pebbles, vermiculite, perlite, turkey grits, etc., should be provided in which to set your plants. Hardware cloth or a like material should be stretched across the top

of the tray to keep the bottoms of the pots out of the water. This will allow the soil to dry properly between waterings and prevent pests from using a moist or wet surface to travel from plant to plant.

We all know that what we are doing with light gardening is using a substitute for sunlight by supplying the red and blue parts of the spectrum that plants need for growth. The human eye cannot judge the value of light output. A lamp with poor spectral distribution for growth may actually be producing more lumen output in the red/blue range than a tube showing high red or blue intensity, but with a low lumen output. What we want are tubes with high lumen output combined with high enough intensities in the red and blue ranges of the spectrum to grow good plants. A combination of one warm white and one cool white tube will produce the best combination of lumen output, reds and blues, and economy. These tubes are closer to white than to any specific color. If you like the color effect of the growth lamps, as I personally do, by all means use them, but not in pairs. Use one growth lamp and one cool white lamp for its higher lumen output. If you are interested in the more natural colors, or economy, use one warm white and one cool white. The addition of incandescent bulbs to your fluorescent tubes is an advantage only if your plants are cold or your electric bills are not high enough for you. They are not necessary and are not economical.

How long should your lights be left on? Burn your lights about 12 to 14 hours a day. Let your plants tell you exactly how long. Burn them only long enough to keep your plants growing flat and blossoming well.

The most common failure in light gardening is continued use of worn out tubes. You have a 10% decline in light after 100 hours of use. After that, the decline slows down but never stops. All tubes should be changed every 6 to 8 months. The decline in light output is not noticeable to the eye. Only when we change tubes can we see the difference. The difference however, is great enough so that you should never change all the tubes at one time. The increase in light is too much of a shock to your plants. Change one tube every few days for each level. Put a sticker on the end of each fixture to keep track of dates. All tubes are not of equal quality: some go very quickly. A sure sign of a spent tube is a dark area at the end of the tube. This tube should be

changed at once.

Plants with dark leaves and blossoms should be placed in the strongest light at the center of the tubes. Lighter plants, such as pinks or whites, should be placed near the ends.

Plants under fluorescent lights are in constant growth and require more water and food. Feed them with every watering, but use a quarter or an eighth of the recommended strength of the fertilizer.

With the use of timers and wicking, you can leave your plants unattended for long periods.

Don't forget to turn your plants for more symmetrical growth, especially those on the ends that will tend to reach for the stronger light in the center.

Happy glowing!



IT'S OFFICIAL—Mayor George Moscone proclaimed the weekend of May 20 as "African Violet Week" in San Francisco in honor of the 25th anniversary of the AVS of San Francisco. Pictured are left to right, Anne Daniels, the AVS public relations director, Mayor Moscone and Louis B. Ambler, society president. (Photo courtesy San Francisco Examiner & Chronicle).

COMPANIONS

by Loretta Cook

What did I do before I knew you . . . there were lovely blues tis true . . . Then you came into my life . . . to greet me morning, noon and night . . . bless you, my African violets . . . wonderful companions and beautiful house pets.

MY FAVORITE ODOR IS GARLIC

*Florence McQuater, President
The Pied Pipers
St. Louis, MO*

Yes, at least it is in my plant room. Garlic is one of three ingredients in my organic pesticide. It is the one that smells — reeks, really — and that strong, pungent odor helps protect my precious house plants.

Since the recipe comes from Elvin McDonald's "*The World Book of House Plants*," I call it "McDonald's Brew." Many organic growers use similar concoctions to combat sucking insects if they do not wish to use toxic chemicals.

To 1 gallon of water add tobacco from 2 cigarettes, 2 cloves of garlic, crushed, 1 dried chili pepper, crushed. Soak overnight, then strain through a coffee filter, cheesecloth or a paper towel. Use this clear liquid to spray infested plant parts thoroughly every week. The brew will remain effective for at least a month; then a new supply should be made.

The garlic odor repels the insects; to them it seems to have an offensive odor and probably tastes bad. Good. The chili pepper burns their rasping mouths. Good. And, if any of the plant material reaches the predators' tummies, the cigarette's nicotine, a poisonous alkaloid, should make them sick.

I have used this organic brew during the past 18 months, after having learned about it during a course in house plant care at a local junior college. I also use it weekly as a prophylaxis on foliage plants, such as ivy, philodendron and dracaena. It serves as their weekly bath, too, and keeps them sleek and clean.

As a very inexperienced plant grower, I first became acquainted with red spider mites when they, to me, "appeared from nowhere." Because I live in a small apartment, I avoid using chemical sprays to control plant pests. So, after my initial panic, I fought them with the McDonald's Brew with some success.

A half-dozen pots of lush ivy apparently were protected until now during a second invasion of spider mites that were brought in on some commercially grown African violets about a year ago.

I have not used this preparation on violets. Perhaps I will select a few as "pilots," to see how well they tolerate repeated spraying with McDonald's Brew.

And, until violet blossoms develop fragrance, the odor of garlic will continue to be my favorite odor. At least in my plant room it will.



AT EGER NURSING HOME—Mrs. J. Lester Swift, a teacher, who lives at 63 Sparkhill Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10904, introduced guests at the Eger Nursing Home to African violets two years ago. Now they thoroughly enjoy their beautiful plants. In the picture are, left to right: Top, 93-year-old Alice Vervlied and Pauline Barracca; bottom, Knute Olsen and Florence Luthenon.

PRESERVE YOUR PRIZE BLOSSOMS

Ms. Mary LaClair
R. D. #1 Youngs Rd.
Vernon, NY 13476

Ever have a lovely violet and wish you could frame it?

I have found that African violet blooms stay very well after they have been dried in silica gel preserving sand. Their size and form are perfectly preserved. Only their delicate color is changed; but the outcome is still lovely. It is always nice when a plant is resting to see one of its lovely productions.

These dried lovelies can be arranged on a piece of paper to form a bouquet and then framed. An oval frame gives a certain old-fashioned feeling.

When I see a flower that I would hate to see disappear and when it is ready to fall from the plant, it is gently saved and put into a silica gel or "Flower Dri"

filled small plastic dish with a tight fitting lid, and then nestled into and gently covered with the silica gel.

Two or three days later, I carefully shake the dish until the flower is visible and remove it.

These I save and when a 'special' birthday card or get-well card is in order, I find that one or two dried blooms gently glued on the left side of a card with a little note lends a special personal touch. To a shut-in it almost makes them feel like they've paid you a visit by just seeing your violets again. On a special birthday card it seems to say "I'm happy to share the happiness that my violets bring".

TURKEY NECKS

M. L. Horne
626 Hale Street
London, Ontario
Canada N5W 1H4

This is an easy way to deal with "turkey necks", that long bare stem which develops as an African violet plant ages. Cut the top off the plant just below the bottom leaves with a sharp knife. Then remove any past-mature leaves. If the leaves are growing downwards below the level of the pot rim, you may have to remove more leaves in order that the stem will reach the soil when repotted. Dip the cut edge of the removed top in rooting hormone and place in moist soil. Or make a small depression in soil and fill this depression with vermiculite and put the top in the vermiculite. The new roots grow through the vermiculite to the soil below. Or place the top in a shallow dish which will support the leaves but allow stem in water. But placing directly in tropical plant soil works the best.

This newly planted top must be kept evenly moist. If the air is very dry, invert a small clear plastic bag over it, leaving it open at bottom for circulation. This new plant roots rapidly, and takes a new lease on life. It would appear the nearer the roots to the leaves the more vigorous the plant. The top has revived even after being wilted for several days because of crown rot below the surface.

But if the plant is healthy when surgery is performed there is an additional bonus. This stem which is left sticking up in the original pot, if soil is kept moist and "neck" misted, produces "slips" which in turn can be broken off when large enough and planted in the same manner. Do not cover the "neck" with plastic or it may mold. The top has proven true when it blooms again, the slips off the neck may be true. Placing the entire plant in a deeper pot may encourage crown rot. A plant can have healthy roots, but the buried "neck" may rot and a previously healthy plant wilt and die.

Note: A pyrography iron is ideal for making drainage holes in plastic dishes.

MIST YOUR PLANTS

Did you know that misting your African violets several times a day with a fine spray of water will increase the humidity and the evaporation will cool your plants? But always remember to keep your plants out of the direct sunlight when the leaves are wet or the leaves may get "waterspotted."

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(See our list for other 1979 NEW releases in addition to these)

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SWIFTS'

Hypnotize — Outstanding, one of my favorites. Beautiful Red dbl. with frilly edges!!

Sweet Violet — A delicate silvery lavender dbl. See AV cover Nov. 77.

Trace O'Pink — Well behaved fluffy foliage with loads of blush blooms.

Texas Beacon — Very fancy foliage with dark bluish semidbl frills. Seen at AVSA 1978.

Texas Prince — Center bouquet of wine and purple dbls. Rich green fol. Seen at AVSA 1978.

FRITZ

Tenn. Blue Beauty — Rich and magnificent dark stars with white edge. Stiktite.

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(All of the above were Blue Ribbon winners at the DAVS 1978 Show)

REED'S

*Glad Rags — Beautiful variegations showing pink with blooms to match in profusion!

*Jack Swift — 15 blooms per stem! Velvety Semidbls of blue over lush variegation!

Lilac Lou — Fantastic Fantasy of lavenders with white edge. Very large blooms cover center!

Montgomery Belle — Beautiful Rosy Fuchsia dbls with white edge. Outstanding!! Brilliant Green fol.

*Mrs. Ike — Profuse stems of dbl. purple over symmetrically variegated foliage of pink, white & green!

CHAMPION'S

*Blue Suede — Show Plant! Beautiful blue dbls. over tan variegation. Different.

*Heavenly Halo — See AV mag. June 1978. Large white & Red blooms over good variegation.

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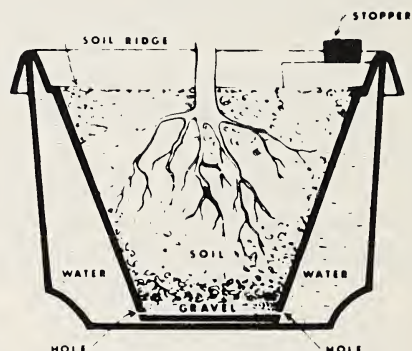
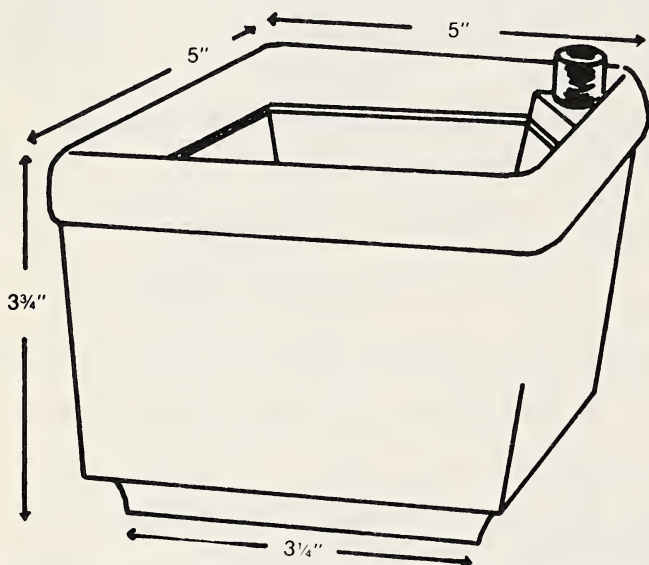
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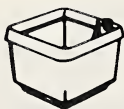
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***6. FROSTY FOLLY** - Hot pink semidbl. with fantasy purple markings. Med. gr., **Tommie Lou** foliage. Variegates well. Blue Ribbon in Austin. **\$4.00**

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9. JAI ALAI - Large, ruffled white semidbl. with dark blue eye and light blue edging on petals. Ruffled, med. gr. foliage. 16 to 20 blooms per stem. **\$2.50**

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1 1/4 lb.	Systemic Insecticide Granules	3.65
8 oz.	Peters House Plant Food (15-30-15)	1.95
8 oz.	Peters General Purpose Plant Food (20-20-20)	1.95
8 oz.	Peters Violet Special (12-36-14)	2.20
8 oz.	Peters Variegated Special (5-50-17)	2.45
1 lb.	Peters S.T.E.M. (Soluble Trace Elements)	3.50
1 lb.	Peters Fritted Trace Elements	1.50
4 oz.	bottle Superthrive (Vita-Hormone)	3.29
8 oz.	Sphagnum Moss milled (Nodampoff)	1.80
4 qts.	Krum Perlite — \$1.20 8 qts.	2.20
2 qts.	Hardwood Charcoal (fine)	1.75
2 qts.	#2 Vermiculite — \$0.50 4 qts.80
3 lb.	Bag Carbamate Fermate, Ferbam	6.40
8 oz.	Bag Carbamate Fermate, Ferbam (Bulk)	1.30
2 lbs.	Dolomite Limestone	1.30
2 lbs.	Calcium Carbonate (Whiting)	1.60
2 lbs.	Superphosphate (0-20-0)	1.30
1 gal.	Mary's African Violet Soil	1.35
1 gal.	Mary's Starter Soil	1.35

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Please give name of street or road and phone number.

Mary's African Violets

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Blue Superstar X Big Red
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One-Fourteen X Jimmy Carter
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*Means all seedlings from this cross will have variegated foliage.

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24" tall

(Pots Not Included)



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Semi-double bright Medium Blue. Lightly ruffled flowers are a shade darker on top petals. Very charming!

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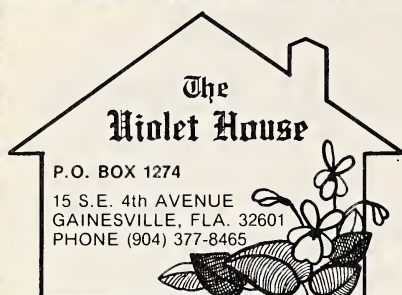
_____ 533-C _____ 533-E _____ 538-A _____ 551-A

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All with Saucers & Hangers

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5½"	Wt. or Gr.	\$.75	\$3.25	\$6.00	\$14.00
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SPECIAL OFFER					
6½"	Wt. or Gr.	.80	3.50	6.50	15.00

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Flower Pots -Colors: All White or Green except 1¾" pot White Only

SIZE	COLOR	TYPE*	10	20	50	100	500
1¾"	Wt. Only	RS	\$.40	\$.70	\$1.60	\$3.00	\$13.00
2¼"	Wt. or Gr.	RS, Sq.	.50	.85	2.00	3.50	15.00
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3½"	Wt. or Gr.	Sq., RT	1.00	1.80	4.00	7.50	35.00
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7"	Wt. or Gr.	RS	4.50	8.50	20.00	36.00	170.00
8"	Wt. or Gr.	RS	4.75	9.00	21.00	38.00	180.00

TYPE* ROUND
TUB
¾ Size
(RT)



SQUARE
(Sq)



ROUND
STANDARD
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Plastic Saucers — White Only

SIZE	10	20	50	100
3"	\$1.10	\$2.00	\$4.50	\$8.50
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WHITE PLASTIC TRAYS

25½" x 13½" x 3 3/16" DEEP

\$2.50 Each — 10 for \$22.50

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DOLOMITE LIMESTONE	1 lb.	.50
CHARCOAL	12 oz.	.89
PEAT MOSS	1 Gal.	.50
4" MARKING LABELS	(100)	\$1.50
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Shipping Charges

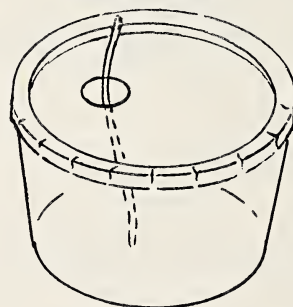
48 STATES	\$2.00
HAWAII AND ALASKA	5.00
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FLORIDA RESIDENTS ADD 4% SALES TAX	

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16 OZ.

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16-oz. holds up to 4½" pot. An inexpensive and efficient way to water all types of potted plants. Wicks not included.

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FORMULA	QUANTITY	TYPE	PRICE
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until our shipping season 1978 ends

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3 1/2" Rnd.-rolled edge	3.20	5.70	10.00
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3"	\$ 2.95	\$ 5.60	\$10.35
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Latest from Grangers, Maas, Lyon, Champion & Others

Send 25¢ for 1978 List

WE CARRY ALL THE SPECIES

POTS

SUPPLIES

GREEN HOUSE NEWS

MS Pretty, MS Pretty Pink, MS Blue (remember "Ring me, MS Blue"?). It's a shame they refuse to register MS as part of a name. Carol's sister-in-law, Marion Green won Best of Show with MS Pretty at the Suburban AVS Show in San Mateo. Noris Takase reports his friends' MS Pretty is the talk of Tokyo.

"Mother Nature's Secrets" published a few years ago contained an African Violet section, the photos all taken at the Green House but no credit given. The new edition gives us full credit after months of photographing at The Green House.

The convention at Austin was enjoyable, but such crowds! The highlight was my own tour of San Antonio, noting the changes since I was last there 40 years ago.

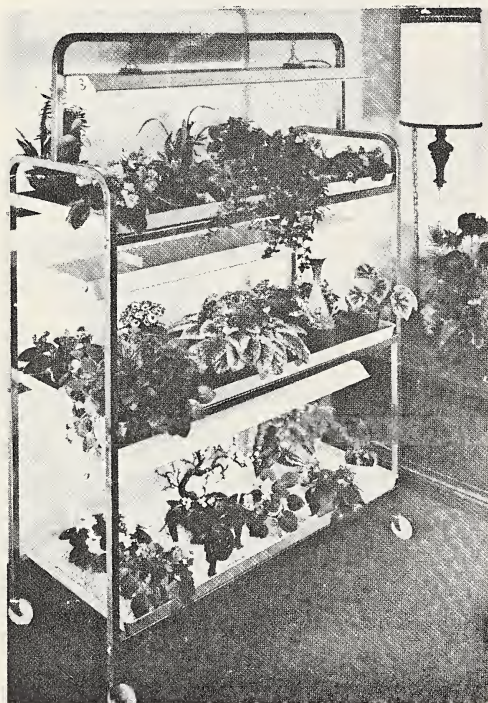
Plant list 25¢. Gro-Cart brochure free.

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For list sent a stamped self addressed long envelope.

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GOODNESS - Double dark blue, 6 blooms per stem.

ZERO - Semidouble blue, 2" flowers.

NUGGET - Double pink, ruffled, rosette shaped.

OH MY - Pink single, 11 blooms per stem.

PINK WINK - Pink single, ruffled, 7 per stem.

PALE FACE - Single creamy pink (like ice-cream).

EBB - Semidouble purple, 2" flowers.

ITS JUNES - Light purple single, 5 per stem.

FROSTY FACE - Single, splashed with raspberry, with white edge.

SALT & PEPPER - Semidouble, splashed with raspberry.

PLANTS - \$2.40 each, includes postage.

Minimum 3 plants

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Send for free list

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Opal Surprise

Ring-a-Ding

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PURPLE CASCADE—Dbl deep purple. Varie-
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BLUE SPARKLER—Lg med blue s-dbl/white
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ROSE EMBER—Full dbl red lavender.

ROSE TRIUMPH—Lg lt lav dbl. Large fol.

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WHITE JUBILEE—White semidbl.

BLUE CAPERS—Dk blue semidbl. Girl fol.

GRANADA—Dbl red-orchid, deeper tips.

RED GOLD—Dbl red violet. Variegated.

OREGON TRAIL—Bright blue semidbl.

SANTA FE TRAIL—Bright pink semidbl.

STARBURST—Sgl deep pink star/red eye.

BLUE HALO—Dbl white/blue-lav edge.

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PINK TEMPEST—Lg pink semidbl.

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CANDY DANDY—Dbl white/fuchsia edge.
Semi.

CORAL CAPER—Dbl reddish violet star.

Small plants: \$2.25 each. Airmail ppd. Min. 4.

Leaves: 50¢ each. Airmail ppd. Min. 10

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Tippy Crest (s.m.)
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Thank you for all the letters telling how beautiful plants and leaves were upon arrival. Shipping thru November. Sorry but I am sold out of SANDRA LEARY hybrids until Spring. Leaves \$1.50 min. of 8. Plants \$2.90 min. 5. First class postage included.

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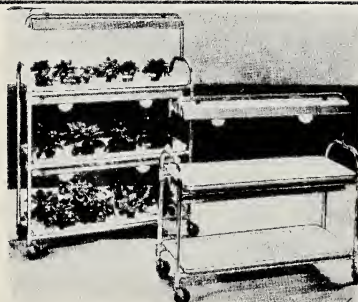
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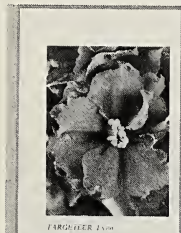
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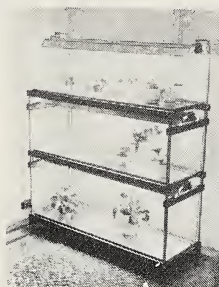
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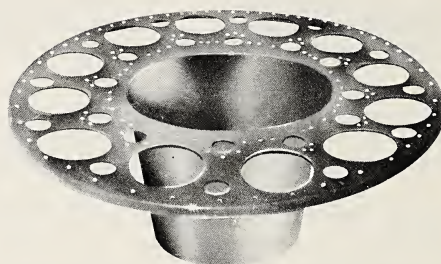
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African Violet

MAGAZINE

Volume 31

Number 4

September, 1978

PART II OF II PARTS

The 1978 Master List of African Violets

Compiled by Adele Tretter, Plant Registration Chairman

*One Asterisk designates registered varieties.

A

- *ABIGAIL ADAMS - (3226) - 9/29/77 - (I. Fredette) Semidouble light blue two tone, star. Plain foliage. Standard.
- *ABRACADABRA - (3283) - 1/18/78 - (D. L. Baker) Semidouble lavender star with purple splashes. Ruffled girl foliage. Standard.
- *AFTERGLOW - (3333) - 2/17/78 - (E & L Hammond) Single to semidouble hot coral pink fringed. Slightly wavy and scalloped foliage. Standard.
- *AFTERNOON DELIGHT - (3311) - 2/3/78 - (Ronn Nadeau) Single two tone lavender. Plain quilted foliage. Standard.
- *ALICE MARIE - (3215) - 9/25/77 - (Volkmann Bros.) Double medium pink. Quilted foliage. Standard.
- ALISON - (Fisher's AV) Single fuchsia red with a white edge. Plain foliage. Standard.
- *ALZIRA - (3185) - 8/24/77 - (Gary R. Beck) Semidouble white center and edge lavender. Quilted, fringed foliage. Standard.
- *AMETHYST SPARKS - (3206) - 9/25/77 - (Champion's AV) Single fringed orchid and white star. Ruffled, variegated foliage. Large.
- ANGEL - (Sev Parson's Angel)
- *ANNE'S FAVORITE - (3283) - 12/30/77 - (Tinari's GH) Semidouble fringed bright pink two tone. Lightly quilted spooned foliage. Standard.
- ANTHONY - (House of Violets) Medium pink fringed double, slight geneva edge. Slightly spooned foliage. Standard.
- ANTI-KI - (Arndt) Double pink and rose. Ruffled foliage. Standard.
- *ANTIQUE CORAL - (3207) - 9/25/77 - (Champion's AV) Double coral pink. Quilted variegated foliage. Large.
- APRIL ALLURE - (Swift's AV) Light peachy pink two tone. Tailored foliage. Standard.
- ARABIAN PURPLE - (Dennee) Semidouble violet stars. Tailored foliage. Standard.
- *ATLANTIS - (3349) - 4/22/78 - (Don Wilson) Double medium blue two tone. Plain, pointed foliage. Standard.
- ATLANTIS - (See Granger's Atlantis)
- AURARIA - (Mrs. P. W. Kiesling) Semidouble white star with light rose variations. Plain medium green foliage. Standard.
- AUSTEX - (House of Violets) Semidouble deep purple. Variegated foliage. Standard.
- AUSTIN ANGEL - (Swift's AV) Light pink semidouble. Slightly ruffled serrated foliage. Standard.
- AUTUMN BEAUTY - (Hybridizer unknown) Ruffled single orchid-plum. Dark quilted leaves. Standard.
- AUTUMN SUNSET - (Hammond) Double ruffled plum. Dark wavy foliage. Standard.

B

- *BABE - (3312) - 2/3/78 - (Ronn Nadeau) Semidouble fuchsia. Plain pointed foliage. Miniature.

- *BABY BLUE - (3350) - 4/22/78 - (Don Wilson) Double light blue. Plain pointed foliage. Semiminiature.
- *BAKER'S DIPPITY DOO - (3284) - 1/18/78 - (D. L. Baker) Double white, pink fringe and green edge. Ruffled foliage. Standard.
- *BAKER'S FIESTA - (3285) - 1/18/78 - (D. L. Baker) Double dark fuchsia star. Plain foliage. Standard.
- *BAKER'S HOT LIPS - (3286) - 1/18/78 - (D. L. Baker) Semidouble fringed white with a dark red edge. Quilted ruffled foliage. Standard.
- *BAKER'S PEPPERMINT PATTY - (3287) - 1/18/78 - (D. L. Baker) White with dark pink eye and edging. Semidouble. Variegated foliage. Standard.
- BALI HAI - (House of Violets) Semidouble deep lavender fuchsia. Quilted foliage. Standard.
- *BALI HAI - (3351) - 4/22/78 - (Don Wilson) Semidouble fringed bright pink. Quilted, pointed foliage. Standard.
- *BALLET ABBY - (3256) - 12/7/77 - (Arnold Fischer) Single to white fringed white. Sometimes has light pink or purple cast. Quilted foliage. Standard.
- *BALLET DOLLY - (3257) - 12/7/77 - (Arnold Fischer) Purple two tone with a white center. Quilted foliage. Standard.
- *BALLET RACHEL - (3258) - 12/7/77 - (Arnold Fischer) Semidouble to double fringed purple with a white edge. Quilted foliage. Standard.
- *BALLET VERA - (3259) - 12/7/77 - (Arnold Fischer) Single to double fringed purple with a white edge. Quilted foliage. Standard.
- BANDITO - (Sandra Leary) Ruffled green edge red single. Ruffled foliage. Standard.
- *BARBARA JEAN - (3177) - 7/30/77 - (E. Fisher) Double deep pink. Plain foliage. Large.
- BAYOU BLUE - (Sandra Leary) Small growing single blue semitriangular star. Tailored foliage.
- *BEAU BLUE - (3347) - 4/12/78 - (Unknown) Semidouble light blue. Plain, quilted and pointed foliage. Large.
- *BEAUMONT - (3200) - 9/19/77 - (Charlyne Reed) Semidouble purple. Quilted foliage. Standard.
- *BELL RINGING FOOL - (3244) - 11/18/77 - (Hazel Hebert) Double lavender two tone. Plain foliage. Large.
- *BERLIN BEAUTY - (3193) - 9/6/77 - (Volkmann Bros.) Semidouble dark blue star. Quilted foliage. Standard.
- *BESS WILLIAMS - (3216) - 9/25/77 - (Volkmann Bros.) Double plum star. Dark wavy foliage. Standard.
- BETTY R. (See Suzy's Betty R)
- *BETTY ROSEREA - (3252) - 12/5/77 - (Mrs. C. S. Hawley) Pink two tone star. Plain pointed foliage. Large.
- *BIG RED - (3313) - 2/3/78 - (Ron Nadeau) Semidouble red. Plain pointed foliage. Standard.
- BIG TEX - (House of Violets) Deep blue double. Tommie Lou variegated foliage. Large.
- BIG RED - (Dennee) Single magenta star. Tailored, pointed foliage. Standard.
- BIT O'IRISH - (Arndt) Rushed emerald green leaves. Double white frilled green edge. Standard.



- BLACK CONGO - (Arndt) Single dark plum with frilly gold edge. Ruffled foliage. Standard.
- BLACK ONYX - (Arndt) Semidouble medium blue two tone. Plain foliage. Standard.
- *BLUE AND YOU - (3260) - 12/15/77 - (C. Simpson) Double deep blue with pink streaks. Plain, variegated and pointed foliage. Large.
- BLUEBONNET - (Susan's AV) Semidouble medium blue star. Tailored foliage. Standard.
- *BLUEBONNET BEAUTY - (3385) - 4/29/78 - (Swift's AV) Double fringed medium blue, ruffled and scalloped foliage. Large.
- BLUE DOT - (Hammond) Semidouble wavy white, blue center and shadings. Dark frilly leaves. Standard.
- BLUE LIGHTNING - (Susan's AV) Dark blue semidouble to double with streaks of white. Slightly quilted, red backed foliage. Standard.
- *BLUE LUSTER - (3288) - 1/18/78 - (D. L. Baker) Semidouble white light blue edge and mottling. Plain foliage. Standard.
- BLUE MAGNUM - (See Granger's Magnum)
- *BLUE MASCARA - (3284) - 12/30/77 - (Tinari GH) Double pale blue with a white edge. Quilted foliage. Standard.
- BLUE NIMBUS - (See Granger's Blue Nimbus)
- BLUES - (See Parson's Blue's)
- *BLUE SHADOWS - (3194) - 9/6/77 - (Volkmann Bros) Semidouble dark blue. Plain foliage. Standard.
- BLUE SPARKLER - (See Granger's Blue Sparkler)
- *BLUE SPRITE - (2725) - 7/28/75 - (Lyon) Double wisteria blue star, often appear single. Plain, pointed foliage. Semiminiature.
- *BLUE STAR LOU - (3302) - 1/23/78 - (Rienhardt's) Single light blue star. Plain variegated foliage. Large growing trailer.
- BLUE SUEDE - (Champion) Medium blue double. Tailored, variegated foliage. Standard.
- *BLUE SUPERSTAR - (3314) - 2/3/78 - (Ron Nadeau) Single blue star. Longifolia foliage. Large.
- *BLUSH DUCHESS - (3386) - 4/29/78 - (Swifts' AV) Double pink, quilted, pointed foliage. Large.
- BOB'S #1 - (Dennee) Single pink geneva star. Quilted foliage. Standard.
- BOB'S #2 - (Dennee) Single pink with red eye. Quilted foliage. Standard.
- BOB'S #3 - (Dennee) Sticktight single blue-violet. Plain foliage. Standard.
- BOB'S #4 - (Dennee) Semidouble medium blue stars. Pointed, quilted foliage. Standard.
- BOB'S #7 - (Dennee) Semidouble violet stars. Tailored foliage. Standard.
- BOB'S #8 - (Dennee) Single violet stars. Wavy, quilted foliage. Standard.
- BOLD CHARM - (House of Violets) Purple semidouble with a touch of white on edge. Dark green foliage. Large.
- BOLD DANCE - (House of Violets) Semidouble to double pink. Variegated foliage. Standard.
- BONNIE COLLEEN - (Arndt) Single frilled light pink, green edges. Ruffled foliage. Standard.
- BRIDAL LACE - (Hammond) Single frilly white. Dark frilly leaves. Standard.
- *BRIGHT BUTTERFLY - (3208) - 9/25/77 - (Champion's AV) Double dark pink. Quilted, variegated foliage. Large.
- BUFFY - (Lyon) Double white sometimes has a few rose pink petals. Glossy dark green foliage. Standard.
- *BURNABY BLUE - (3261) - 12/15/77 - (Crawford Simpson) Double dark blue with a white edge. Plain, scalloped, variegated and pointed foliage. Standard.
- *BURNING EMBER - (3289) - 1/18/78 - (D. L. Baker) Semidouble red star with darker center and tips. Quilted ovate foliage. Standard.
- BY REQUEST - (Lyon) Lightly ruffled semidouble pink. Dark foliage. Standard.
- *CAMDEN BLUE - (3387) - 4/29/78 - (Swift's AV) Double fringed light blue and white bloom. Quilted, scalloped foliage. Standard.
- CANDID - (Lyon) Double white. Dark green foliage. Standard.
- *CANDY MAN - (3201) - 9/19/77 - (Charlyne Reed) Double purple. Quilted variegated foliage. Standard.
- CAPITAL CUTIE - (Swift's AV) Two tone lavender semidouble. Tailored foliage. Standard.
- *CAPTIVA - (3371) - 4/26/78 - (Sandra Leary) Double fluted bright pink star. Plain, quilted foliage. Large.
- CARE - (See Parson's Care)
- *CARE DEEPLY - (3166) - 7/16/77 - (Lyon) Double rosy pink star. Plain leaf. Standard.
- CARIBE - (Fredette) Semidouble pink to deep rose. Tailored foliage. Standard.
- CAROLE - (Tinari) Double fuchsia wavy edge. Wavy pointed leaf. Standard.
- CAROLYN BANCROFT - (Mrs. P. W. Kiesling) Double pink. Variegated foliage. Standard.
- *CASSANDRA - (3348) - 4/12/78 - (Irene Fredette) Semidouble to double pale pink. Plain, quilted foliage. Standard.
- CASSANDRA - (Fisher's AV) Deep fuchsia pink semidouble two tone. Medium green plain foliage. Standard.
- *CASTLE'S FAIRY TIDE - (3362) - 4/24/78 - (V. Fuhlrodt) Double white, two tone lavender, pinched and fluted petals. Quilted, ruffled foliage. Standard.
- CASTLE'S LAVENDER EDGE - (3363) - 4/24/78 - (V. Fuhlrodt) Double white, lavender edge. Quilted foliage. Standard.
- *CASTLE'S LAVENDER PRINCE - (3364) - 4/24/78 - (V. Fuhlrodt) Double dark lavender, near white edge. Quilted foliage. Standard.
- *CASTLE'S LAVENDER TOUCH - (3365) - 4/24/78 - (V. Fuhlrodt) Double white with a lavender center. Quilted foliage. Standard.
- *CASTLE'S MOON MOTH - (3366) - 4/24/78 - (V. Fuhlrodt) Double cream with a pink cast. Quilted foliage. Standard.
- *CASTLE'S PURPLE TIDE - (3367) - 4/24/78 - (V. Fuhlrodt) Double pinched and fluted light purple. Quilted and ruffled foliage. Standard.
- *CASTLE'S TRUE LAVENDER - (3368) - 4/24/78 - (V. Fuhlrodt) Double lavender with a lighter edge. Ruffled foliage. Standard.
- *CASTRO - (3340) - 3/16/78 - (Gary R. Beck) Single dark blue. Plain, quilted foliage. Standard.
- *CAT'S MEOW - (3238) - 11/11/77 - (Swifts' AV) Semidouble fringed fuchsia star with a white edge. Quilted wavy foliage. Large.
- *CELINE - (3188) - 8/26/77 - (Max Maas) Double medium blue. Plain foliage. Standard.
- CHARLYNE REED - (Swifts' AV) Ruffled peachy pink double two tone. Quilted foliage. Standard.
- CHARM - (See Parson's Charm)
- CHARMAINE - (See Granger's Charmaine)
- CHEER - (See Parson's Cheer)
- CHERISH - (Lyon) Frilly edged double white. Deep green holly foliage. Standard.
- *CHERRY PARFAIT - (3209) - 9/25/77 - (Champion's AV) Double fringed pink and white. Quilted, ruffled, variegated foliage. Large.
- *CHERRY SWIRL - (3234) - 11/5/77 - (Lyn Robinson) Double fringed white, pink splashes and edges. Ruffled foliage. Standard.
- *CHINA PINK - (3429) - 6/1/78 - (Fredette) Semidouble peach pink star. Plain foliage. Standard.
- CHRISTMAS BEAUTY - (Arndt) Red frilled double. Ruffled foliage. Standard.
- *CHRISTOPHER HOWARD - (3237) - 11/8/77 - (E. Fisher) Single fringed medium blue. Plain, ruffled supreme foliage. Standard.
- CINNAMON BEAR - (Arndt) Frilled red double. Ruffled foliage. Standard.
- CLASSIC LOVE - (Lyon) Double pink with lightly frilled edges.

Dark red backed foliage. Standard.
 CLASSIC PINK - (See Granger's Classic Pink)
 CLYDE McCAGUE - (Fisher's AV) Semidouble bluish plum star two tone. Plain foliage. Standard.
 *CNE CENTENNIAL - (3178) - 7/30/77 - (E. Fisher) Double deep pink. Plain, pointed foliage. Large.
 CORAL KISS - (Lyon) Semidouble coral, dark standard foliage. Standard.
 CORAL TRAIL - (Lyon) Double coral. Semitrailing habit. Standard.
 CORKIE - (Lyon) Semidouble rosy pink star. Girl foliage. Miniature.
 *COUNTRY GENTLEMAN - (3202) - 9/19/77 - (Charlyne Reed) Double purple. Quilted, variegated foliage. Standard.
 COLVIN BOWDEN - (House of Violets) Double lavender two tone. Medium green foliage. Standard.
 CONNIE B - (Maude Cook) Double blue fantasy. Medium green leaf. Standard.
 COTTON CANDY - (House of Violets) Semidouble to double fringed light pink. Variegated foliage. Standard.
 *COTTON BOWL - (3239) - 11/11/77 - (Swifts' AV) Double fringed white. Quilted ruffled. Large.
 CRAZY QUILT - (House of Violets) Double purple. Variegated foliage. Standard.
 CRIMSON GLOW - (See Tinari's Crimson Glow)
 *CUTUP - (3262) - 12/15/77 - (Crawford Simpson) Single white star with a pink center. Quilted, scalloped foliage. Large.
 CYNTHIA - (Fisher's AV) Double fuchsia red. Medium green foliage. Standard.

D

DAINTINESS - (Fisher's AV) Double blue and white. Emerald green foliage. Standard.
 DANCING MOONBEAM - (Arndt) Semidouble white, blue frilly edge. Quilted ruffled foliage. Standard.
 DANCING PANSIES - (Susan's AV) Two tone double orchid. Spooned, red backed foliage. Standard.
 DANDY DANCER - (Lyon) Deep purple edged double white. Semiholly green foliage. Standard.
 *DARK BEAUTY - (3195) - 9/6/77 - (Volkman Bros.) Single purple star. Quilted foliage. Standard.
 DARK EYES - (Maude Cook) Frilly pink double two tone. Pointed dark foliage. Standard.
 DARK SHADOW - (Swifts' AV) Double purple two tone. Slightly quilted foliage. Standard.
 DARLENE - (Fisher's AV) Double white star with deep mauve edge. Semiwavy medium green foliage. Standard.
 DAVID CORNELL - (Swifts' AV) Frilled double purple with slight white edge. Ruffled red backed foliage. Standard.
 *DAWN CARROLL - (3369) 4/26/78 - (Sandra Leary) Semidouble fluted bright pink star, darker eye. Plain foliage. Large.
 DAWN ROSE - (Dennee) Semidouble clear pink, reddish center. Quilted foliage. Standard.
 DAZZLE DARE - (Lyon) Bright pink semidouble. Flexible standard foliage. Standard.
 DEAR ELLIE - (Lyon) Semiminiature, white semidouble, dark blue eye. Tailored foliage.
 DEAR HEART - (Arndt) Double pink two tone. Ruffled foliage. Standard.
 DEBBIE - (See Peggy's Debbie)
 *DELTA DREAMER - (3263) - 12/15/77 - (Crawford Simpson) Double bright pink. Plain foliage. Standard.
 DELTA ROSE - (Lyon) Double white with reddish purple ruffled edges. Semiminiature.
 *DENVER DELIGHT - (3286) - 1/5/78 - (Mrs. P. W. Kiesling) Semidouble rose pink. Plain, quilted foliage. Standard.
 *DENVER JO - (3285) - 1/5/78 - (Mrs. P. W. Kiesling) Semidouble medium to dark pink. Plain quilted pointed foliage. Standard.

*DESPERADO - (3370) - 4/26/78 - (Sandra Leary) Semidouble fluted dark wine purple star. Plain quilted foliage. Large.
 *DEVIL - (3290) - 1/18/78 - (D. L. Baker) Semidouble red two tone. Plain foliage. Standard.
 DIANE - (See Peggy's Diane)
 DIERDRE - (Fisher's AV) Semidouble medium blue. Plain, quilted foliage. Standard.
 DIPPITY DOO - (See Baker's Dippity Doo)
 DITHOT - (Swifts' AV) Pink double. Tailored, quilted, scalloped foliage. Standard.
 *DIVERTIMENTO - (3334) - 2/17/78 - (E & L Hammond) Double fringed plum. Variable amounts of white in blossom. Ruffled foliage. Standard.
 DIXIE DREAM - (House of Violets) Semidouble to double Fantasy lavender and purple. Shiny light green foliage. Standard.
 DIXIE PRINCESS - (House of Violets) Double pastel pink. Quilted foliage. Standard.
 DOLL BABY - (See Parson's Doll Baby)
 DONALD WILLIAM - (Dennee) Single royal blue stars. Quilted tailored foliage. Large.
 DONNA DENISE - (Arndt) Semidouble rose wine. Tailored foliage. Standard.
 *DONNA LEE - (3341) - 3/16/78 - (Gary R. Beck) Single light plum two tone. Quilted, scalloped foliage. Standard.
 *DOROTHY'S DREAM - (3264) - 12/15/77 - (C. Simpson) Single fringed coral pink thin green edge. Quilted, wavy pointed foliage. Standard.
 *DO'S JEAN - (3382) - 4/26/78 - (Jim Wright) Double fluted lavender star. Plain foliage. Large.
 *DO'S REALIDO - (3383) - 4/26/78 - (Jim Wright) Semidouble light blue star. Plain, ruffled, pointed foliage. Large.
 *DO'S SPITFIRE - (3384) - 4/26/78 - (Jim Wright) Semidouble red star. Quilted, ruffled foliage. Large.
 *DOUBLE DELIGHT - (3315) - 2/3/78 - (Ronn Nadeau) Double reddish purple. Plain quilted pointed foliage. Standard.
 DUBONNETTE DEB - (See Granger's Dubonnette Deb)
 DUNE FLOWER - (Sandra Leary) Semitrailer medium grower, single fuchsia stars. Tailored foliage.
 *DUTCH SKIES - (3240) - 11/11/77 - (Swifts' AV) Double fringed blue and white. Quilted wavy scalloped foliage. Large.
 DYN-O-MITE - (Lyon) Semidouble red stars. Rosy backed foliage. Standard.

E

EASTER BUNNY - (Swifts' AV) Frilled white with some pink. Slightly wavy foliage. Standard.
 EASTER JOY - (Arndt) Semisupreme foliage. Creamy white bloom. Standard.
 EASTER TRAIL - (Fisher's AV) Double violet. Dark trailer foliage. Standard.
 EBB - (Deborah J. Good) Semidouble purple. Dark green foliage. Crenate edge. Standard.
 *EDNA HAUGH - (3217) - 9/25/77 - (Volkman Bros.) Double light pink. Plain foliage. Semiminiature.
 EDEN ROSE - (Dennee) Sticktight single bright pink, ruffled edges. Quilted foliage. Standard.
 *ELAINE - (3218) - 9/25/77 - (Volkman Bros.) Semidouble dark plum with a white edge. Slightly wavy foliage. Standard.
 *ELECT LADY - (3250) - 11/28/77 - (Betty Bryant) Single fringed pink. Quilted, slightly wavy and pointed foliage. Standard.
 *ELVIS PRESLEY - (3420) - 5/9/78 - (David Buttram) Two tone red double with a light green edge. Ruffled variegated foliage. Standard.
 EMILY - (Fisher's AV) Semidouble pink star with some fuchsia. Shiny strawberry foliage. Standard.
 EMILY ELEANOR - (Dennee) Fancy semidouble pink stars. Quilted foliage. Standard.
 *EMMA LAHR - (3345) - 4/1/78 - (Isla Montgomery) Single white

star with plain variegated foliage. Miniature.
 EMPEROR'S CROWN - (Swifts' AV) Red ruffled geneva, some white in blossoms. Dark ruffled foliage. Standard.
 ETTA MARIE - (Maude Cook) Double deep pink. Quilted leaf. Standard.
 EVELYN - (Arndt) Semidouble pink with red tips. Plain foliage. Standard.
 EVENING SMILE - (Swifts' AV) Semidouble white star, touch of lavender. Tailored foliage. Standard.
 EVA SHEA - (See Suzy's Eve Shea)
 EXOTIC DELIGHT - (Arndt) Frilled double pink and red bloom. Ruffled foliage. Standard.

F

FAIRY TIDE - (See Castle's Fairy Tide)
 FAIRY BELLS - (Dennee) Single bell shaped rose pink stars. Plain foliage. Semiminiature.
 FAIRY PINK - (Dennee) Single light pink. Heart shaped medium green foliage. Large.
 *FARRAH - (3291) - 1/18/78 - (D. L. Baker) Double peach two tone star. Plain foliage. Standard.
 *FIDDLE FADDLE - (3388) - 4/29/78 - (Swifts' AV) Semidouble pink. Plain, pointed foliage. Large.
 FIERY FIESTA - (Arndt) Frilled red double. Ruffled foliage. Standard.
 FIESTA - (See Baker's Fiesta)
 *FINGERPAINTS - (3245) - 11/19/77 - (Alene King) Single and double fringed fuchsia with blue streaks and green edge. Ruffled foliage. Standard.
 FIRE PINK - (Swifts' AV) Semidouble dark pink slightly fringed. Ruffled foliage. Standard.
 FIRETHORNE - (See Granger's Firethorne)
 FIRST NIGHTER - (Swifts' AV) Double purple. Variegated Tommie Lou type foliage. Standard.
 *FLOWER TIME - (3297) - 1/26/78 - (Charlyne Reed) Double deep lavender. Quilted, variegated foliage. Large.
 FOREVER WINE - (Dennee) Double and semidouble fringed wine-red. Ruffled pointed foliage. Standard.
 *FOUNTAIN REVERIE - (3287) - 1/7/78 - (Mrs. C. S. Hawley) Single white with a deep orchid edge. Ruffled pointed foliage. Large.
 *FOXY - (3352) - 4/22/78 - (Don Wilson) Double dark bluish purple. Plain foliage. Standard.
 *FREE N' EASY - (3167) - 7/16/77 - (Lyon) Double fuchsia star. Plain foliage. Standard.
 FRENCH GLEN - (Arndt) Double rose wine, plum tips. Plain foliage. Standard.
 *FRONT PAGE - (3330) - 2/6/78 - (Mrs. P. Kiesling) Double orchid two tone star. Plain quilted pointed foliage. Standard.
 FROSTED ANGEL - (Dennee) Double and semidouble ruffled pale pink two tone stars. Tailored foliage. Standard.

G

*GATEWAY CHARMER - (3389) - 4/29/78 - (Swifts' AV) Double wine purple. Quilted, wavy foliage. Large.
 *GAYLA - (3196) - 9/6/77 - (Volkmann Bros.) Double fuchsia pink. Ruffled foliage. Standard.
 *GAVIN DOUGLAS - (3179) - 7/30/77 - (E. Fisher) Double coral pink. Plain, quilted foliage. Large.
 GEREMY - (Fisher's AV) Semidouble fringed moorish blue two tone star. Quilted foliage. Standard.
 GIGGLES - (Lyon) Double royal purple often splashed with pink. Girl type miniature foliage.
 GLACIER GLOW - (Mrs. P. W. Kiesling) Double light pink. Plain dark green semistrawberry foliage. Standard.
 GLAD.MORNING - (House of Violets) Semidouble fringed rosy russett two tone. Quilted foliage. Large.
 GLADNESS - (See Parson's Gladness)

GOODNESS - (Deborah Good) Slightly ruffled double purple. Crenate edge foliage. Standard.
 GORGEOUS - (Tinari) Semidouble white, fuchsia tinged. Variegated foliage. Standard.
 *GOVERNOR PRYOR - (3282) - 12/17/77 - (House of Violets) Double slightly fringed deep blue. Quilted foliage. Large.
 *GRAND FINALE - (3430) - 6/1/78 - (Fredette) Semidouble pink. Variegated foliage. Large.
 *GRANGER'S ATLANTIS - (3398) - 5/1/78 - (Granger G) Single to double fringed white, blue edge. Quilted, ruffled foliage. Large.
 *GRANGER'S BLUE MAGNUM - (3399) - 5/1/78 - (Granger G) Double fringed medium blue star. Plain, pointed foliage. Large.
 *GRANGER'S BLUE NIMBUS - (3400) - 5/1/78 - (Granger G) Semidouble fringed medium blue star, white edge. Ruffled foliage. Large.
 *GRANGER'S BLUE SPARKLER - (3401) - 5/1/78 - (Granger G) Double, fringed deep blue with a white edge. Quilted, ruffled foliage. Large.
 *GRANGER'S CHARMAINE - (3402) - 5/1/78 - (Granger G) Double rust red. Plain, pointed foliage. Standard.
 *GRANGER'S CLASSIC PINK - (3403) - 5/1/78 - (Granger G) Double deep pink two tone. Plain, pointed foliage. Large.
 *GRANGER'S DUBONETTE DEB - (3404) - 5/1/78 - (Granger G) Double deep red violet. Girl foliage. Standard.
 *GRANGER'S FIRETHORNE - (3405) - 5/1/78 - (Granger G) Double deep red violet. Plain, pointed foliage. Large.
 *GRANGER'S GRENOBLE - (3406) - 5/1/78 - (Granger G) Semidouble light lavender two tone. Plain foliage. Large.
 *GRANGER'S HEARTS DESIRE - (3407) - 5/1/78 - (Granger G) Double fringed blue and white. Quilted, ruffled foliage. Large.
 *GRANGER'S MEDALLION BLUE - (3408) - 5/1/78 - (Granger G) Double medium blue. Plain foliage. Standard.
 *GRANGER'S MOHAWK - (3409) - 5/1/78 - (Granger G) Double deep red violet. Plain foliage. Standard.
 *GRANGER'S PINK SPLENDER - (3410) - 5/1/78 - (Granger G) Semidouble fringed medium pink with a white edge. Plain, pointed foliage. Large.
 *GRANGER'S PURPLE CASCADE - (3411) - 5/1/78 - (Granger G) Double fringed deep purple. Quilted, ruffled, variegated foliage. Large.
 *GRANGER'S REDHAVEN - (3412) - 5/1/78 - (Granger G) Double deep red violet. Plain, pointed foliage. Large.
 *GRANGER'S RIO RITA - (3413) - 5/1/78 - (Granger G) Double white with a rose pink eye. Plain, quilted foliage. Large.
 *GRANGER'S ROBERTA - (3414) - 5/1/78 - (Granger G) Double fringed light lavender. Ruffled foliage. Large.
 *GRANGER'S ROSE EMBER - (3415) - 5/1/78 - (Granger G) Double rose orchid with deep orchid tips. Plain, pointed foliage. Large.
 *GRANGER'S STARTLER - (3416) - 5/1/78 - (Granger G) Double, fringed white star with blue edge and eye. Quilted, ruffled foliage. Large.
 *GRANGER'S WHITE COCKATOO - (3417) - 5/1/78 - (Granger G) Double white, light lavender tint. Plain, quilted foliage. Standard.
 *GRANGER'S WHITE JUBILEE - (3418) - 5/1/78 - (Granger G) Double white with a blue eye. Quilted foliage. Large.
 *GRANGER'S WONDERLAND - (3419) - 5/1/78 - (Granger G) Semidouble fringed light blue. Ruffled foliage. Large.
 GREAT FIND - (Tinari) Double purple with a white edge. Dark green foliage. Standard.
 GREAT MOMENTS - (Lyon) Bright pink double. Dark reddish backed foliage. Standard.
 *GRENADINA - (3372) - 4/26/78 - (Sandra Leary) Semidouble fluted fuchsia red star. Plain, quilted foliage. Large.
 GRENOBLE - (See Granger's Grenoble)
 GOOD TIMES - (Lyon) Flax blue semidouble with white edges. Dark foliage. Standard.

*GYPSY DANCER - (3353) - 4/22/78 - (Don Wilson) Semidouble bright pink star. Round plain foliage. Large.

H

*HAPPY BIRTHDAY USA - (3069) - 12/10/76 - (Mrs. P. Kiesling) Double fringed two tone lavender. Quilted, ruffled foliage. Standard.

HAPPY CHILD - (Arndt) Semiminiature double white and blue. Cupped girl leaves.

*HAPPY HARLEQUIN - (3253) - 12/5/77 - (Mrs. C. S. Hawley) Single pink, top petals red. Plain, pointed foliage. Large.

HAVAHONEY - (Swifts' AV) Semidouble dark lavender star, fringed edges. Slightly ruffled scalloped foliage. Standard.

*HEARTBREAKER - (3390) - 4/29/78 - (Swifts' AV) Double fringed light pink. Ruffled, scalloped foliage. Large.

HEART OF TEXAS - (Swifts' AV) Medium pink full double. Red backed tailored foliage. Standard.

HEARTS DESIRE - (See Granger's Hearts Desire)

*HEARTSTRINGS - (3265) - 12/15/77 - (C. Simpson) Single clear pink two tone. Plain foliage. Standard.

*HEART THROB - (3391) - 4/29/78 - (Swifts' AV) Double fringed rose bloom. Quilted, wavy, scalloped foliage. Large.

*HEAVENLY HALO - (3210) 9/25/77 - (Champion's AV) Double orchid and white. Quilted, variegated, spooned foliage. Standard.

HILDA - (Mrs. Hays) Semidouble rose pink and red. Standard.

*HILL COUNTRY - (3241) - 11/11/77 - (Swifts' AV) Double fringed deep rose. Ruffled foliage. Large.

*HOMESPUN - (3266) - 12/15/77 - (Crawford Simpson) Double fringed white and blue with a dark blue border. Quilted ruffled foliage. Standard.

*HOT KISS - (3227) - 10/15/77 - (L. Sebastian) Single fringed dark rose pink two tone, with blossoms edged in green. Wavy foliage. Standard.

HOT LIPS - (See Baker's Hot Lips)

I

ICE PALACE - (Mrs. P. W. Kiesling) Semidouble white with blush pink variations. Medium green girl foliage. Standard.

*ICY BLUE - (3431) - 6/1/78 - (Fredette) Double and semidouble light blue, usually has green upper tips. Plain foliage. Standard.

IDA HAYS - (Arndt) Double pink on black tailored foliage. Standard.

INK SPOTS - (Hammond) Single dark purple. Tailored foliage. Standard.

ITS JUNE - (Deborah Good) Single purple small bloom. Medium green, crenate edge foliage. Standard.

J

JACK SWIFT - (House of Violets) Two tone purple. Variegated foliage. Standard.

*JAME SPORT - (3267) - 12/15/77 - (Crawford Simpson) Double white with blue edge and markings. Quilted strawberry, ruffled girl foliage. Standard.

*JANET - (3335) - 2/17/78 - (E & L Hammond) Double light lavender. Plain, quilted foliage. Standard.

JANO - (Fisher's AV) Red semidouble star. Variegated foliage. Standard.

JAYME SPORT - (Simpson) Full double white shaded with blue. Strawberry girl foliage. Standard.

*JEALOUS PINK - (3292) - 1/18/78 - (D. L. Baker) Semidouble fringed hot pink with green edge (variable white). Ruffled foliage. Standard.

JENNIFER BOY - (Fisher's AV) Semidouble pink star with chartreuse tips. Dark plain quilted foliage. Standard.

JIMMY - (Fischer GH) Double pink bloom, dark green flexible foliage. Semiminiature.

*JIMMY CARTER - (3316) - 2/3/78 - (Ronn Nadeau) Semidouble red bloom. Quilted foliage. Large.

JOHNIE JOE - (Mrs. Hays) Double wine bloom, plum tips. Standard.

*JOY - (3354) - 4/22/78 - (Don Wilson) Semidouble bright lavender orchid. Plain foliage. Large.

*JOYFUL - (3168) - 7/16/77 - (Lyon) Double fringed white with a red edge. Ruffled foliage. Semiminiature.

JOYFUL INNOCENCE - White star. Light green standard foliage. Standard.

JUDITH ELAINE - (Dennee) Single light pink stars. Wavy medium green foliage. Standard.

JULINE - (Wilton) Double wisteria blue with white. Pointed, semi-holly foliage. Semiminiature.

JUNE SWIFT - (House of Violets) Semidouble fringed medium pink. Variegated foliage. Standard.

K

KAREN MICHELLE - (Fisher's AV) Semidouble lilac star two tone some chartreuse. Plain quilted foliage. Standard.

*KAREY - (3180) - 7/30/77 - (E. Fisher) Double light pink star with a fuchsia edge. Plain, pointed foliage. Standard.

KATHRYN - (Maude Cook) Double pink. Pointed foliage. Standard.

KEITH JAMES - (E. Fisher) Semidouble two tone fuchsia star. Dark strawberry foliage. Standard.

KEWPIE DOLL - (Mrs. P. W. Kiesling) Ruffled double rosy pink. Ruffled dark green foliage. Standard.

KIRSTY ANN - (Fisher's AV) Frilly double deep fuchsia pink two tone. Dark quilted foliage. Standard.

KUDDLY - (Lyon) Frilly fuchsia edged double white flowers. Miniature semiholly foliage.

L

LADY LEO - (Maude Cook) Semidouble light frilly pink. Pointed wavy foliage. Standard.

*LADY OF LOVE - (3346) - 4/3/78 - (Mary Mahen) Semidouble red, occasional white edge. Ruffled foliage. Large.

LADY'S WHIM - (Lyon) Crinkly red edged white flowers. Semi-holly foliage. Standard.

*LANGLEY LACE - (3268) - 12/15/77 - (C. Simpson) Double medium blue with a white edge. Quilted, variegated foliage. Standard.

LAURA - (Fisher's AV) Semidouble deep blue, flecked and striped with pink. Plain foliage. Standard.

LAVENDER EDGE - (See Castle's Lavender Edge)

LAVENDER LACE - (Maude Cook) Fluffy lavender. Quilted foliage. Standard.

LAVENDER LASSIE - (Lyon) Double deep lavender flowers. Rosy backed foliage. Standard.

LAVENDER LILY - (Swifts' AV) Semidouble light lavender two tone star. Dark tailored foliage. Standard.

LAVENDER PRINCE - (See Castle's Lavender Prince)

*LAVENDER STEEL - (3317) - 2/3/78 - (Ronn Nadeau) Semidouble dark lavender two tone. Plain foliage. Standard.

*LAVENDER TIARA - (3165) - 7/5/77 - (Tinari GH) Semidouble orchid two tone. Slightly quilted cupped foliage. Standard.

LAVENDER TOUCH - (See Castle's Lavender Touch)

*LEGEND OF LOVE - (3203) - 9/19/77 - (Charlyne Reed) Double pink with rose shading. Plain, spooned foliage. Miniature.

LENA - (Maude Cook) Double fantasy star, some single. Medium green quilted leaf. Standard.

*LEVITTOWN - (3397) - 5/1/78 - (Mrs. Anne Lee) Double medium pink, green to white edge. Plain, pointed foliage. Miniature.

LIFE LIGHTER - (Swifts' AV) Light lavender double. Tailored foliage. Standard.

LIGHT PURPLE - (See Castle's Light Purple)

LILAC LOU - (House of Violets) White edged double lavender and

purple Fantasy. Light green foliage. Standard.

LIL DICKENS - (Lyon) Double frilly red star. Dark tailored leaf. Miniature.

*LINDA SMALL - (3318) - 2/3/78 - (Ronald Nadeau) Single fringed lavender bloom, two tone. Plain ovate foliage. Standard.

LITTLE BUCKAROO - (Lyon) Double royal purple. Tailored foliage. Miniature.

*LITTLE DELIGHT - (3169) - 7/16/77 - (Lyon) Double mottled white and purple star. Ruffled foliage. Miniature.

*LITTLE JOAN - (3331) - 2/11/78 - (Isla Montgomery) Single pink. Plain variegated foliage. Miniature.

*LITTLE LOU - (3170) - 7/16/77 - (Lyon) Double purplish blue star. Tommie Lou type foliage. Miniature.

*LITTLE LULU - (3171) - 7/16/77 - (Lyon) Double rose star. Tommie Lou type foliage. Semiminiature.

LITTLE RED - (Dennee) Small single fuchsia geneva. Dentate, bright green foliage. Standard.

*LITTLE SEABIRD - (3373) - 4/26/78 - (Sandra Leary) Single white with purple. Plain, pointed foliage. Semiminiature.

LITTLE SWEETHEART - (Dennee) Single and semidouble light pink geneva stars. Pointed, tailored foliage. Standard.

*LITTLE TOM - (3339) - 2/18/78 - (Isla Montgomery) Single pink. Plain variegated foliage. Miniature.

*LOCHIEL - (3181) - 7/30/77 - (E. Fisher) Single oxford blue star. Plain quilted foliage. Large.

*LOVEABLE - (3336) - 2/17/78 - (E & L Hammond) Double deep pink. Plain heart shaped quilted foliage. Standard.

LOVE IN BLOOM - (Mrs. P. W. Kiesling) Semidouble frilled pink geneva. Shiny, quilted medium green foliage. Standard.

LOVE IS - Double deep pink with dark red backed foliage. Standard.

LOVE TOKEN - (Lyon) Double white with crinkled purplish blue edges. Semiminiature holly foliage.

LYLE ROBERTS - (Dennee) Single medium blue stars, crinkled geneva edge. Quilted, pointed foliage. Large.

LU ANN - (Fredette) Single and semidouble frilled rose bloom. Tailored foliage. Standard.

*LUCILLE - (3293) - 1/18/78 - (D. L. Baker) Semidouble red star. Plain foliage. Standard.

LUCINDA - (Wilton) Double shell pink, lacy white edge. Dark wavy scalloped foliage. Standard.

M

*MAGIC CHARM - (3161) - 6/6/77 - (Don Wilson) Double blue two tone, slightly ruffled. Quilted, pointed foliage. Standard.

*MAIDEN VOYAGE - (3374) - 4/26/78 - (Sandra Leary) Single lavender two tone. Wavy foliage. Large.

*MALIBU - (3355) - 4/22/78 - (Don Wilson) Double medium light blue two tone. Plain foliage. Standard.

*MANDY LEI - (3392) - 4/29/78 - (Swifts' AV) Semidouble mixed white and pink bloom. Plain, pointed foliage. Large.

MANFRED - (Swifts' AV) Frilled double white with some pink tones. Ruffled foliage. Standard.

MARANTHA - (House of Violets) Double pastel pink. Medium green foliage. Standard.

*MARIA ANDROLINA - (3186) - 8/24/77 - (Gary R. Beck) Semidouble orchid-pink. Ruffled slight girl foliage. Standard.

*MARIN - (3342) - 3/16/78 - (Gary R. Beck) Single lavender, magenta eye and rays. Quilted fringed foliage. Standard.

*MARIPOSA - (3375) - 4/26/78 - (Sandra Leary) Semidouble white with purple center and edge. Plain foliage. Large.

MARK - (Tinari) Deep red fuchsia double fringed edge. Dark foliage. Standard.

*MARSTEEL - (3319) - 2/3/78 - (Ronald Nadeau) Semidouble white or red, some times white and red. Plain quilted foliage. Standard.

MARY K - (See Suzy's Mary K)

*MARY'S LOVE - (3426) - 5/21/78 - (Mary Mahen) Single pink star. Quilted spooned foliage. Standard.

MASTERPIECE - (See Parson's Masterpiece)

*MAUVE EYES - (3228) - 10/15/77 - (L. Seabastion) Single slightly fringed two toned mauve pink. Plain pointed foliage. Standard.

MAY M - (See Suzy's May M)

MEDALLION BLUE - (See Granger's Medallion Blue)

*MELANCHOLY - (3393) - 4/29/78 - (Swifts' AV) Double fringed white with lavender mixed bloom. Quilted, ruffled, scalloped foliage. Large.

MEADOW TRAIL - (Lyon) Deep pink double flowers. Semitrailing.

MELODY ALLISON - (Sunnyside N) Violet-purple bloom. Standard.

MELODY ANGIE - (Sunnyside N) Dark pink ruffled bloom. Standard.

MELODY BETH ELLEN - (Sunnyside N) Pink and/or white bloom. Standard.

MELODY FARRAH - (Sunnyside N) Splash pink ruffled bloom. Standard.

MELODY FRANCES - (Sunnyside N) Dark violet blue bloom. Standard.

MELODY JEANIE - (Sunnyside N) Ruffled pink bloom. Standard.

MELODY JULIANNE - (Sunnyside N) White bloom with a blue edge. Standard.

MELODY KATHY - (Sunnyside N) Light blue bloom. Standard.

MELODY MITZI - (Sunnyside N) Blue ruffled foliage. Standard.

MELODY PEARL - (Sunnyside N) Pure white bloom. Standard.

MELODY SHERI - (Sunnyside N) Medium red bloom. Standard.

MELODY STACY - (Sunnyside N) Pink bloom. Standard.

*MENDOCINO - (3343) - 3/16/78 - (Gary R. Beck) Double fringed lavender two tone. Quilted, scalloped. Standard.

MERRI-BLUE - (Swifts' AV) Dark blue full double. Dark ruffled foliage. Standard.

ME-SU - (Fisher's AV) Single and semidouble fuchsia star with white and chartreuse. Plain foliage. Standard.

*MEXICO - (3197) - 9/6/77 - (Volkmann Bros.) Double plum red. Quilted foliage. Standard.

*McKENZIE TRAIL - (3269) - 12/15/77 - (C. Simpson) Single burgundy two tone trailer. Pointed foliage. Standard.

*MIDGET RINGER - (3211) - 9/25/77 - (Champion's AV) Dark pink star. Plain, variegated, pointed foliage. Miniature.

MIDNIGHT BLUE - (See Westdale Midnight Blue)

*MILLIE LOU - (3303) - 1/23/78 - (Rienhardt's) Double fringed shaded raspberry pink star. Ruffled variegated foliage. Large.

MINI BLUE - (Tinari) Miniature blue double. Medium green foliage.

*MINI FANTASY - (3163) - 7/5/77 - (F. Tinari) Semidouble lavender with dots and splashes of purple and pink. Small pointed leaf. Miniature.

MISS CHICKIE - (Swifts' AV) Double ruffled pink. Tailored foliage. Standard.

*MISTER COOK - (3219) - 9/25/77 - (Volkmann Bros.) Double bright pink. Plain tailored foliage. Standard.

MISTY - (Deborah Good) Single slightly ruffled pink. Plain foliage. Standard.

MISTY LAKE - (Swifts' AV) Light lavender semidouble two tone. Tailored, scalloped foliage. Standard.

*MISTY TRINKET - (3212) - 9/25/77 - (Champion's AV) Double light pink. Quilted, variegated foliage. Semiminiature.

*MIZZOU LOU - (3320) - 2/3/78 - (Ronald Nadeau) Single two tone lavender. Plain variegated foliage. Standard.

MOBY DICK - (3246) - 11/25/77 - (Cape Cod V.) Double ruffled bright pink. Plain foliage. Standard.

MOHAWK - (See Granger's Mohawk)

*MOM - (3162) - 6/27/77 - (Clarissa Harris) Semidouble lavender two tone. Quilted, pointed foliage. Standard.

*MONTGOMERY BELLE - (3427) - 5/24/78 - (Charlyne Reed) Double rosy fuchsia Geneva, some fantasy. Plain slightly pointed foliage. Large.

*MOODY BLUES - (3421) - 5/9/78 - (David Buttram) Double medium blue with a white edge. Quilted variegated foliage. Standard.

MOON MOTH - (See Castle's Moon Moth)

*MOONSTONE - (3270) - 12/15/77 - (Crawford Simpson) Double light blue. Plain foliage. Standard.
 *MOONSTRUCK - (3271) - 12/15/77 - (Crawford Simpson) Double medium blue. Plain foliage. Standard.
 *MORNING DELIGHT - (3321) - 2/3/78 - (Ronn Nadeau) Semidouble light pink. Plain foliage. Standard.
 *MOTIVATION - (3272) 12/15/77 - (Crawford Simpson) Single bright red two tone. Plain foliage. Standard.
 MR. CHIPS - (Lyon) Purplish blue semidouble. Dark red backed foliage. Standard.
 *MUMBO JUMBO - (3273) - 12/15/77 - (Crawford Simpson) Double bright red and white mix. Plain foliage. Standard.
 MY STEVE - (See Suzy's My Steve)
 *MYSTICAL BLUE - (3172) - 7/16/77 - (Lyon) Double flax blue two tone star. Plain foliage. Standard.
 MYSTIC MELODY - (Lyon) Deep pink double stars, dark green symmetrical foliage. Standard.

N

NANCY V. (See Suzy's Nancy V.)
 NEW FALLEN SNOW - (Mrs. P. W. Kiesling) Single white. Plain, semistrawberry foliage. Standard.
 *NIGHTINGALE - (3274) - 12/15/77 - (Crawford Simpson) Single orchid two tone. Plain foliage. Standard.
 *NIGHT MOTH - (3376) - 4/26/78 - (Sandra Leary) Semidouble purple with a green white edge. Wavy foliage. Large.
 NOAL - (Fredette) White semidouble to double star. Dark tailored foliage. Standard.
 *NOB HILL - (3187) - 8/24/77 - (Gary R. Beck) Single and semidouble shell pink with a wine eye. Ruffled spooned foliage. Standard.

O

*OBSESSION - (3275) - 12/15/77 - (Crawford Simpson) Double medium blue. Variegated foliage. Small standard.
 OCTA FAYE - (House of Violets) Fluffy light pink double. Medium green foliage. Standard.
 OCTOBERFEST - (Arndt) Semidouble dark purple. Round leaves. Standard.
 *OH MY - (3308) - 1/28/78 - (Deborah Good) Single pink. Quilted ruffled foliage. Semiminiature.
 OLGA - (House of Violets) Deep cerise pink. Dark red backed foliage. Large.
 OLYMPUS - (Unknown) Double flared royal blue star, good white edge. Tailored foliage. Standard.
 *OLIVIA - (3198) - 9/6/77 - (Volkmann Bros.) Semidouble pink. Plain foliage. Standard.
 OH SUGAR - (House of Violets) Deep pink double. Medium green foliage. Large.
 *ONE-FOURTEEN - (3322) - 2/3/78 - (Ronn Nadeau) Double blue and white. Plain foliage. Standard.
 OPAL SURPRISE - (Champion) Rosy orchid double with a blue cast. Dark variegated foliage. Standard.
 ORCHID - (See Parson's Orchid)
 OUR MARY - (See Suzy's Our Mary)
 OUR MAN - (See Suzy's Our Man)

P

PAIGE S. (See Suzy's Paige S.)
 *PALE FACE - (3229) - 10/15/77 - (L. Seabaston) Single pale pink. Quilted pointed foliage. Standard.
 *PAMELA - (3182) - 7/30/77 - (E. Fisher) Double medium blue star. Plain, quilted foliage. Large.
 PANSY CLUSTERS - (Susan's AV) Double two tone purple and orchid. Slightly spooned foliage. Standard.
 PARSON'S ANGEL - Medium pink semidouble. Pink Tommie Lou

foliage. Standard.
 PARSON'S BLUES - Large blue-purple double with white edge. Tailored Tommie Lou foliage. Standard.
 PARSON'S CARE - Medium pink semidouble. Tailored Tommie Lou foliage. Standard.
 PARSON'S CHARM - Two tone orchid semidouble. Tommie Lou foliage. Standard.
 PARSON'S CHEER - Two toned orchid and violet double. Tailored Tommie Lou foliage. Standard.
 PARSON'S DOLL BABY - Blue single star. Semiminiature Tommie Lou foliage. Semiminiature.
 PARSON'S GLADNESS - Frilly double pink. Wavy Tommie Lou foliage. Standard.
 PARSON'S MASTERPIECE - Purple double. Tommie Lou foliage. Standard.
 PARSON'S ORCHID - Two tone orchid and violet double. Tommie Lou foliage. Standard.
 PATRICIA JEAN - (Fisher's AV) Double blue with a white edge. Medium green foliage. Standard.
 PATSY - (Dennee) Single and semidouble deep pink. Long, tapered, pointed foliage. Standard.
 *PATTE GAE - (3251) - 11/28/77 - (Betty Bryant) Semidouble fringed pink. Quilted slightly wavy foliage. Standard.
 *PEACH TREAT - (3276) - 12/15/77 - (Crawford Simpson) Double peach. Plain supreme foliage. Large.
 PEGGY'S DEBBIE - (3190) - 9/6/77 - (Peggy's VS) Semidouble medium pink with a white edge. Plain, quilted ruffled foliage. Standard.
 *PEGGY'S DIANE - (3191) - 9/6/77 - (Peggy's VS) Single medium pink. Quilted ovate foliage. Standard.
 *PEGGY'S RUSTOVER - (3189) 9/6/77 - (Peggy's VS) Semidouble white and orchid. Plain foliage. Standard.
 *PEGGY'S STAAT - (3176) - 7/29/77 - (Mrs. J. Chadwick) Double light purple with some white. Quilted pointed foliage. Standard.
 *PEGGY'S TONI - (3192) - 9/6/77 - (Peggy's VS) Double fringed deep pink. Plain, quilted, ovate foliage. Standard.
 *PENDICTIN PINK - (3277) - 12/15/77 - (C. Simpson) Single clear pink. Plain foliage. Standard.
 *PEPPERMINT PATTI - (3235) - 11/5/77 - (Lyn Robinson) Double fringed two toned dark pink. Ruffled foliage. Standard.
 PEPPERMINT PATTY - (See Baker's Peppermint Patty)
 *PICK-A-DILLY - (3204) - 9/19/77 - (Charlyne Reed) Double fringed dark blue. Quilted, variegated foliage. Standard.
 PINEAPPLE SHERBET - (Fredette) Double white. Tailored foliage. Standard.
 PINK BALLOON - (Swifts' AV) Rose semidouble with white tips. Slightly ruffled foliage. Standard.
 PINK CHIMES - (Swifts' AV) White and pink double. Slightly ruffled foliage. Standard.
 PINK CORSAGE - (Hammond) Double frilly light pink. Dark, wavy, scalloped foliage. Semiminiature.
 PINK DRAGON - (Dennee) Single and semidouble light pink stars. Long, wavy tapered foliage. Standard.
 *PINK ENERGY - (3323) - 2/3/78 - (Ronn Nadeau) Semidouble pink bloom. Plain quilted foliage. Standard.
 *PINK MORNSTAR - (3324) - 2/3/78 - (Ronn Nadeau) Single light pink star. Plain foliage. Standard.
 *PINK N' INK - (3173) - 7/16/77 - (Lyon) Semidouble pink with purple spots. Plain foliage. Standard.
 PINK OCCASION - (Lyon) Rosy pink bloom and Tommie Lou foliage. Standard.
 *PINK PATTY - (3278) - 12/15/77 - (Crawford Simpson) Double light pink with blue streaks. Variegated, pointed foliage. Standard.
 PINK POPPY - (Champion) Double ruffled deep pink bloom. Flat ruffled, variegated foliage. Standard.
 PINK SHERBERT - (Swifts' AV) White with shadings of pink double. Ruffled foliage. Standard.

PINK SPLENDER - (See Granger's Pink Splendor)
 *PINK STAR LOU - (3304) - 1/23/78 - (Rienhardt's) Single medium pink star. Plain Tommie Lou foliage. Large growing trailer.
 PINK SUNSET - (House of Violets) White edged pink double. Light green foliage. Standard.
 PINK SWISS - (House of Violets) Semidouble fringed pink two tone.
 *PINK WINK - (3305) - 1/28/78 - (Deborah J. Good) Single fringed pink. Plain, ruffled foliage. Semiminature.
 PINXTER - (Champion) Baby pink double two tone. Tailored variegated foliage. Standard.
 PIP SQUEEK - (Arndt) Semiminature. Semidouble medium blue. Girl foliage. Standard.
 *PLAIN JANE - (3254) - 12/5/77 - (Mrs. C. S. Hawley) Double dark pink, upper petals red. Plain, pointed foliage. Large.
 *PLUM BEAUTY - (3307) - 1/26/78 - (House of Violets) Double magenta wine two tone. Quilted Tommie Lou type foliage. Standard.
 PLUM BRANDY - (Arndt) Frilled plum single. Ruffled foliage. Standard.
 PLUM BUSH - (Swifts' AV) Double wine two tone. Quilted, tailored foliage. Standard.
 PLUM HEARTY - (Arndt) Single red and plum. Ruffled foliage. Standard.
 PORTS OF CALL - (Arndt) Double pink green edge. Ruffled foliage. Standard.
 *POTPOURRI - (3279) - 12/15/77 - (Crawford Simpson) Semidouble pale pink with blue splashes. Variegated foliage. Standard.
 PRECIOUS MOMENTS - (Lyon) Double fuchsia red with frilled edges, sometimes purple splashes. Standard.
 PRETTY POLLY - (Fredette) Semidouble pink star edged in red. Tailored foliage. Standard.
 *PRIMROSE - (3356) - 4/22/78 - (Don Wilson) Semidouble fringed bright pink star. Scalloped foliage. Standard.
 PURPLE CASCADE - (See Granger's Purple Cascade)
 *PURPLE CHARM - (3199) - 9/6/77 - (Volkmann Bros.) Double blue purple. Plain foliage. Standard.
 PURPLE DREAM - (Susan's AV) Full double purple. Dark red backed tailored foliage. Standard.
 PURPLE FLASH - (Deborah Good) Single dark purple bloom. Crenate edge foliage. Standard.
 PURPLE MIDNIGHT - (Susan's AV) Double two tone purple. Quilted, pointed foliage. Large.
 PURPLE POPPY - (Champion) Double ruffled purple bloom, sometimes a dash of white. Broad ruffled light green foliage. Standard.
 *PURPLE PRINCE - (3220) - 9/25/77 - (Volkmann Bros.) Double dark purple. Quilted foliage. Standard.
 PURPLE ROSES - (Susan's AV) Full double purple. Slightly spooned red backed foliage. Standard.
 PURPLE TIPS - (Susan's AV) Semidouble lavender with purple tips. Slightly spooned red backed foliage. Standard.

Q

QUACHITA BLUES - (House of Violets) Semi to double purple.

R

RADIANT TRAIL - (Lyon) Double coral pink flowers. Compact trailer. Standard.
 *RADIATION - (3357) - 4/22/78 - (Don Wilson) Single fringed cerise pink veins and large eye on white. Wavy, pointed foliage. Standard.
 RAIN BEAU - (Fredette) Orchid stars splashed with purple. Variegated tailored foliage. Standard.
 *RAINBOW'S CELESTE - (3222) - 9/26/77 - (D. S. Hirt) Single fringed dark orchid red with white streaks. Plain dark foliage. Standard.
 *RAINBOW'S KATHRYN - (3223 - (9/26/77 - (D. S. Hirt) Double dark magenta red. Plain dark foliage. Standard.

*RAINBOW'S RAGSAMUFFIN - (3224) - 9/26/77 - (D. S. Hirt) Semidouble pink. Quilted foliage. Standard.
 *RAINBOW'S SHADE - (3225) - 9/26/77 - (D. S. Hirt) Semidouble pink with purple shadows. Semiquilted foliage. Standard.
 RAMBLIN ROSE - (Tinari) Double medium pink. Dark green plain foliage. Standard.
 RALPH CHARLES - (House of Violets) Double purple with a white edge. Dark green red backed foliage. Standard.
 *RASPBERRY SWIRL - (3236) - 11/5/77 - (Lyn Robinson) Double fringed white with red bands and edges. Ruffled foliage. Standard.
 RED FLING - (Lyon) Double white edged fuchsia stars. Green tailored foliage. Standard.
 REDHAVEN - (See Granger's Redhaven)
 RED MEDALLION - (Mrs. P. W. Kiesling) Double deep orchid. Pointed, quilted medium green foliage. Standard.
 RED SAFARI - (Fischer GH) Double mauve bloom. Variegated foliage. Standard.
 RED SPOT - (Lyon) Double red, white spot on tips. Dark foliage. Standard.
 RED WOW - (Lyon) Double red, dark foliage. Standard.
 RENDEZVOUS - (Simpson) Fringed single two tone orchid. Deep green foliage. Standard.
 *REVERAND BLADES - (3205) - 9/19/77 - (Charlyne Reed) Double fringed purple. Quilted, variegated foliage. Standard.
 REVOLUTIONARY RED - (Lyon) Fancy frilled full double fuchsia red. Semiholly foliage. Standard.
 RING A DING - (Champion) Wavy pink double edged in darker pink. Quilted rippled variegated foliage. Standard.
 RIO RITA - (See Granger's Rio Rita)
 ROBERTA - (See Granger's Roberta)
 *ROSALYNN CARTER - (3325) - 2/3/78 - (Ronn Nadeau) Single lavender two tone star. Plain foliage. Standard.
 ROSE EMBER - (See Granger's Rose Ember)
 ROSE FROST - (Granger G) White ruffled double, rose edge. Standard.
 ROSE TRIUMPH - (Granger G) Fringed light lavender-pink semidouble with a white edge. Wavy foliage. Large.
 ROSIE MIA - (Swifts' AV) Deep pink two tone double. Dark quilted tailored foliage. Standard.
 *ROSY FRILLS - (3230) - 10/15/77 - (L. Sebastian) Single ruffled rose pink two tone. Quilted scalloped and pointed foliage. Standard.
 *ROYAL GARNET - (3358) - 4/22/78 - (Don Wilson) Semidouble red two tone. Plain, pointed foliage. Standard.
 ROYAL HUSSY - (Fredette) Pink semidouble with a pink band and a red band. Tailored foliage. Standard.
 ROYAL RUBY - (Lyon) Deep fuchsia semidouble. Red backed foliage. Standard.
 ROYAL TAPESTRY - (Swifts' AV) Purple wine double with darker edge. Tailored, quilted, scalloped foliage. Standard.
 RUSTOVER - (See Peggy's Rustover)
 RUTH J. - (See Suzy's Ruth J.)

S

*SAN FRANCISCO - (3344) - 3/16/78 - (Gary R. Beck) Single purple. Plain, quilted foliage. Standard.
 *SANIBEL - (3377) - 4/26/78 - (Sandra Leary) Semidouble white with a red edge. Plain foliage. Large.
 *SAN JOSE SUNRISE - (3424) - 5/19/78 - (I. Haseltine) Double dark plum two tone. Plain foliage. Standard.
 *SAN SOUCI - (3422) - 5/9/78 - (David Buttram) Lavender, slightly ruffled double. Plain pointed foliage. Standard.
 *SAPPHIRE TRINKET - (3213) - 9/25/77 - (Champion's AV) Quilted, variegated foliage. Dark blue double. Semiminature.
 *SARA LOU - (3428) - 5/24/78 - (Charlyne Reed) Double fringed deep blue. Slightly pointed foliage. Standard.
 SATAN SHEETS - (House of Violets) Double light pink. Medium green quilted foliage. Standard.

SCOOBY DOO - (Lyon) Double purple semiminiature star. Tailored leaf.

*SEA ROBIN - (3378) - 4/26/78 - (Sandra Leary) Single lightly ruffled magenta pink with darker center. Plain pointed foliage. Large.

*SHARON LYNN - (3233) - 10/28/77 - (W. F. Whiffen) Semidouble two toned pink. Scalloped foliage. Standard.

SHOCKING - (Fredette) Pink semidouble with carmine overlay. Tailored foliage. Standard.

*SHOW ME DOGWOOD - (3423) - 5/9/78 - (David Buttram) Semidouble light pink with dark dogwood marking on tips. Quilted, variegated foliage. Standard.

SILVER LIGHT - (See Val's Silver Light)

*SILVER MINK - (3338) - 2/17/78 - (E & L Hammond) Semidouble white with blue shadings. Ruffled foliage. Standard.

*SIREN - (3359) - 4/22/78 - (Don Wilson) Double rosy red two tone. Plain foliage. Standard.

SKI BUNNY - (Mrs. Hayes) Single white. Tailored foliage. Standard.

*SKY MAGIC - (3360) - 4/22/78 - (Don Wilson) Double light blue. Plain foliage. Standard.

SMALL WORLD - (Lyon) Semidouble white star, blue edge. Tailored foliage. Miniature.

SMOKY TRAIL - (Lyon) Dark purplish blue double flowers. Dark red backed foliage. Standard.

†SNOOKY - (3326) - 2/3/78 - (Ronn Nadeau) Single dark blue, white tips. Plain foliage. Semiminiature.

SNOWBIRD - (Dennee) Semidouble creamy white stars with a pinkish cast. Tailored, quilted foliage. Standard.

*SNOW ORCHID - (3432) - 6/1/78 - (Fredette) Semidouble and double fringed white with occasional pink flush. Plain foliage. Standard.

SNOWY EGRET - (Sandra Leary) Clear white stars, tailored medium green foliage. Semitrailer. Medium to small growing.

*SORCERY - (3280) - 12/15/77 - (Crawford Simpson) Single fringed white with a deep blue edge. Quilted, ruffled and variegated spooned foliage. Large.

*SOURIS - (3183) - 7/30/77 - (E. Fisher) Double white and lavender tinged star. Plain, quilted foliage. Large.

SPARKLES - (Wilton) Double two tone orchid-purple. Quilted, pointed foliage. Semiminiature.

SPELL BOUND - (Lyon) Light blue semidouble two tone. Dark green foliage. Standard.

*SPELLBOUND - (3394) - 4/29/78 - (Swifts' AV) Double fringed lavender two tone. Quilted, wavy foliage. Large.

SPRING WATER - (House of Violets) Reddish purple double with a white edge. Medium green foliage. Large.

SPRITE - (Fisher's AV) Single lavender pink bell shaped flowers. Tommie Lou foliage. Miniature.

SQUARERIGGER - (Sandra Leary) Two tone double purple star. Wavy dark foliage. Standard.

STAR BOARDER - (Dennee) Single and semidouble ruffled deep pink stars. Heart shaped foliage. Standard.

STARCHED PETTICOAT - (Hammond) Double plum two tone. Quilted, tailored foliage. Standard.

*STARLOVER - (3327) - 2/3/78 - (Ronn Nadeau) White single star with lavender streaks. Plain foliage. Standard.

*STARS OF BLUE - (3395) - 4/29/78 - (Swifts' AV) Semidouble medium blue. Plain, quilted foliage. Large.

STARTLER - (See Granger's Starter)

STAR TRAIL - (Fisher's AV) Single blue star with a white edge. Trailer.

*STEPPING OUT - (3174) - 7/16/77 - (Lyon) Double fringed rose pink. Quilted foliage. Standard.

*STONEWALL - (3379) - 4/26/78 - (Sandra Leary) Double fluted peach star. Plain, quilted foliage. Large.

STORMY SKIES - (Susan's AV) Semidouble blue with white streaks. Red backed quilted foliage. Standard.

*SUMMER BUTTERFLY - (3380) - 4/26/78 - (Sandra Leary) Semi-

double pink star with a white edge. Plain, quilted, pointed foliage. Large.

SUMMER ROSE - (Swifts' AV) Light rose two tone double. Slightly ruffled dark foliage. Standard.

*SUNBURN - (3231) - 10/15/77 - (L. Seabastion) Single dark rose two tone. Scalloped, pointed foliage. Standard.

SUSIE SPORT - (Maude Cook) Double purple bloom. Dark green foliage. Standard.

SUZY'S BETTY R - (Mrs. H. S. Johnson) Single lavender two tone. Variable variegated foliage. Standard.

SUZY'S EVE SHEA - (Mrs. H. S. Johnson) Single to double cream white with blue fantasy markings star. Red backed foliage. Standard.

SUZY'S MARY K - (Mrs. H. S. Johnson) Double deep blue. Variably variegated foliage. Standard.

SUZY'S MAY M. (Mrs. H. S. Johnson) Double rosy pink. Scalloped red backed foliage. Standard.

SUZY'S MY STEVE - (Mrs. H. S. Johnson) Double deep blue. Quilted foliage. Standard.

SUZY'S NANCY V. - (Mrs. H. S. Johnson) Double to single medium blue. Quilted foliage. Large.

SUZY'S OUR MARY - (Mrs. H. S. Johnson) Double pink two tone. Quilted foliage. Standard.

SUZY'S OUR NAN - (Mrs. H. S. Johnson) Semidouble violet two tone. Medium green foliage. Standard.

SUZY'S PAIGE S. - (Mrs. H. S. Johnson) Single two tone lavender. Medium green foliage. Standard.

SUZY'S RUTH J. - (Mrs. H. S. Johnson) Semidouble lavender. Quilted foliage. Standard.

SWEET DREAM - (See Val's Sweet Dream)

*SWEET VIOLET - (3242) - 11/11/77 - (Swifts' AV) Semidouble pale lavender. Plain foliage. Large.

T

*TAFFY PULL - (3255) - 12/5/77 - (Mrs. C. S. Hawley) Double fringed rose pink with red and a slight white edge. Quilted, ovate and pointed. Large.

TAG-A-LONG - (Arndt) Cupped girl leaves. Semidouble purple and rose. Semiminiature.

TAWNY ROSE - (Lyon) Semidouble rosy pink with white edges. Dark foliage. Standard.

*TWEENY WEENY - (3294) - 1/18/78 - (D. L. Baker) Single rose lavender with purple splashes. Plain pointed foliage. Miniature.

*TEQUILA SUNRISE - (3381) - 4/26/78 - (Sandra Leary) Single bright fuchsia star. Plain, pointed foliage. Large.

TEXARKANA BABY - (Swifts' AV) Double pink. Serrated, quilted foliage. Standard.

TEXAS BEACON - (Swifts' AV) Dark bluish purple semidouble, slightly frilled. Dark ruffled foliage. Standard.

TEXAS FANTASY - (Maude Cook) Purple-lavender with pink streaks and spots. Semidouble star. Quilted foliage. Standard.

TEXAS HOT PINK - (Maude Cook) Double deep pink, fluffy bloom. Plain foliage. Standard.

TEXAS LAVENDER ROSE - (Maude Cook) Semidouble lavender-rose bloom. Medium green quilted foliage. Standard.

TEXAS PEACH - (Maude Cook) Double blush bloom tinge of pink on edge. Dark green foliage. Standard.

TEXAS PRINCE - (Swifts' AV) Double wine and purple. Tailored foliage. Standard.

TEXAS RANGER - (Swifts' AV) Medium blue double, slight geneva edge. Dark red backed foliage. Standard.

TEXAS TORNADO - (Swifts' AV) Double medium lavender. Soft tailored foliage. Standard.

TEXAS WHITE CAPS - (Maude Cook) Semidouble frilly white star. Dark green foliage. Standard.

TEXAS WISTERIA - (Maude Cook) Semidouble light wisteria star. Medium green foliage. Standard.

*THE MUSICIAN - (3243) - 11/12/77 - (Rev. L. E. Collins) Semi-

- double two tone orchid. Quilted spooned foliage. Standard.
- *THE MUSICIAN'S BLUES - (3296) - 1/21/78 - (L. E. Collins) Single light blue two tone. Quilted foliage. Standard.
- THUMBLES - (Lyon) Double white and red miniature star. Tailored leaf.
- TIDY TIPS - (Hammond) Single white. Scalloped girl foliage. Miniature.
- *TIGER - (3433) 6/1/78 - (Fredette) Semidouble dark blue violet. Variegated foliage. Large.
- TINA - (Maude Cook) Semidouble fantasy star. Medium green quilted foliage. Standard.
- *TINARI'S CRIMSON GLOW - (3164) - 7/5/77 - (F. Tinari) Single fringed lavender two tone. Plain slightly quilted foliage. Standard.
- TIPPY - (Lyon) Double white, tipped purplish blue. Miniature.
- *TIPPY CREST - (3328) - 2/3/78 - (Ronn Nadeau) Single white with a purple center. Plain foliage. Semiminiature.
- TIZ BLUE - (House of Violets) Medium blue double. Pointed foliage. Standard.
- TONI - (See Peggy's Toni)
- TOP ANGEL - (See Val's Top Angel)
- *TOP FLIGHT - (3184) - 7/30/77 - (E. Fisher) Double fuchsia. Plain quilted and pointed foliage. Large.
- TOUCH OF WONDER - (House of Violets) Semidouble to double fringed cerise fantasy. Medium green foliage. Standard.
- TRAILS AWAY - (Lyon) Double dark orchid flowers. Trailer. Standard.
- TRAILS DELIGHT - (Lyon) Rosy red semidouble flowers. Variegated trailer. Standard.
- TRIBUTE - (Tinari) Midnight purple double. Variegated foliage. Standard.
- TRINKET MAGIC - (Champion) Semiminiature medium blue single, white wavy edge. Small light green wavy foliage.
- *TRINKET WHITE CAPS - (3214) - 9/25/77 - (Champion's AV) Single white with light blue edges. Quilted, pointed foliage. Semiminiature.
- TRUDY - (Fredette) Pastel blue semidouble. Dark tailored foliage. Standard.
- TRUE LAVENDER - (See Castle's True Lavender)
- *TWINKLE TOES - (3175) - 7/16/77 - (Lyon) Double fuchsia two tone. Pointed foliage. Miniature.

U - V

- *VAL'S SILVER LIGHT - (3332) - 2/15/78 - (Vallin) Fringed lavender and white. Longifolia, ruffled and variegated foliage. Semiminiature.
- VAL'S SWEET DREAM - (3247) - 11/25/77 - (Mrs. G. Vallin) Double soft pink. Plain variegated pointed foliage. Standard.
- VAL'S TOP ANGEL - (3248) - 11/25/77 - (Mrs. G. Vallin) Double fringed pink two tone. Ruffled pointed foliage. Large.
- VAL'S WINSOME PINK - (3249) - 11/25/77 - (Mrs. G. Vallin) Double pink white edge. Quilted wavy foliage. Large.
- *VANCOUVER DEBUT - (3281) - 12/15/77 - (C. Simpson) Double pink with streaks of fuchsia. Plain, fringed foliage. Large.
- VENUS - (Hybridizer unknown) White fringed single. Medium green quilted tailored foliage. Standard.
- VERONIQUE - (Arndt) Single frilled plum, pink edges. Ruffled foliage. Standard.
- *VIOLA TUCKER - (3232) - 10/24/77 - (Hugh Eyerdorn) Double fringed deep pink with white edge. Girl foliage. Standard.
- VIOLET MIST - (Susan's AV) Semidouble lavender stars. Slightly spooned red backed foliage. Standard.
- VIOLET TIME - (Susan's AV) Two tone lavender semidouble. Pointed, slightly spooned foliage. Standard.
- *VOLARE - (3305) - 1/23/78 - (Rienhardt's) Semidouble white star with orchid splashes. Plain, quilted, pointed foliage. Large.
- *VOLKMANN'S CLOUD PINK - (3221) - 9/25/77 - (Volkman Bros.) Double pink star. Plain foliage. Standard.

- *WARREN TEE - (3396) - 4/29/78 - (Swifts' AV) Double lavender bloom. Quilted wavy foliage. Large.
- WAYWARD PINK - (Dennee) Semidouble light pink geneva stars. Wavy foliage. Standard.
- *WEE DREAMER - (3329) - 2/3/78 - (Ronn Nadeau) Double pink. Plain pointed foliage. Miniature.
- WESTDALE GRAPE - (I. Haseltine) Single two tone lavender. Quilted, serrated foliage. Large.
- *WESTDALE MIDNIGHT BLUE - (3425) - 5/19/78 - (I. Haseltine) Single dark blue. Quilted foliage. Standard.
- WESTDALE SPECTACULAR - (I. Haseltine) Single ruffled purple two tone with green edge. Light green ruffled foliage. Standard.
- *WHAT FUN - (3306) - 1/28/78 - (Deborah J. Good) Double pink. Plain foliage. Semiminiature.
- WHISPER - (Deborah Good) Slightly ruffled single pink. Curly, crenate foliage. Standard.
- WHITE COCKATOO - (See Granger's White Cockatoo)
- WHITE JUBILEE - (See Granger's White Jubilee)
- WINEBERRY - (Fredette) Semidouble raspberry with red upper petals. Tailored foliage. Standard.
- *WINE DROPS - (3337) - 2/17/78 - (E & L Hammond) Single maroon bell shaped bloom. Plain foliage. Tiny miniature.
- *WINKLE - (3295) - 1/18/78 - (D. L. Baker) Semidouble white with a dark blue edge. Fringed quilted foliage. Standard.
- WINSOME PINK - (See Val's Winsome Pink)
- WINTER SHADOWS - (Mrs. P. W. Kiesling) White semidouble. Dark green plain foliage. Standard.
- WINTER WALK - (Lyon) White double, often with some slight pink. Tailored foliage. Standard.
- WONDERLAND - (See Granger's Wonderland)
- WRINKLES - (Hammond) Double frilly pink. Wavy scalloped foliage. Small standard.

X - Y - Z

- YULETIDE CANDLE - (Arndt) Double red with pink edge. Ruffled foliage. Standard.
- *ZEPHYR - (3361) - 4/22/78 - (Don Wilson) Double white. Plain foliage. Standard.
- ZERO - (Deborah Good) Semidouble slightly ruffled blue bloom. Dark crenate foliage. Standard.
- ZONA ROSA - (Sandra Leary) Semidouble fluted clear pink with red edge. Flat bright green foliage. Standard.

NEMATODES

Nematodes in the soil affect the root system by entering the roots and feeding upon them, causing swellings to appear. If they become too numerous they can weaken the plant so that the plant cannot function properly and the plant can be killed. Care should be used when transplanting plants, as this is the main way of spreading the nematodes. When transplanting, it is best to play safe and plant only one at a time, using a sheet of newspaper on which to work. After repotting, any soil spilled on the newspaper should be thrown away along with the newspaper. Old flower pots should be sterilized by putting them in a pail of hot water and bringing water to a boil.

BIGGER AND BIGGER - BUT BEST?

Mrs. C. W. Beattie
283 Churchill Drive, Winnipeg
Manitoba, Canada R3L 1V7

Are the biggest specimen plants on the show room shelves the best? From San Francisco to New York, Minneapolis to Austin and all points in between, the specimen plants in the horticultural section of our Convention shows have become bigger and bigger. As a grower, exhibitor and judge, their size and cultural imperfections disturb me and leave me wondering if, or when, there will be an end to "bigness."

In walking down the aisles of the past few Convention shows I found it difficult to reconcile the "best in show" and "best in class" specimen plants with the words from Ruth Carey's Handbook for Judges and Exhibitors. Under SYMMETRY OF PLANT (LEAF PATTERN OR FORM), it states "Blue ribbon plants should have perfection of leaf pattern, foliage growing in a symmetrical and flat rosette shape. The plant should be well rounded as a wheel, with sturdy fresh foliage evenly distributed around the entire plant, growing straight from the center of the crown to the tip of the outer leaves. Each layer of leaves should overlap the petioles below without gaps or spaces between the leaves or rows of leaves." Again, under GROWING AND GROOMING SHOW PLANTS, it states "All too often the layman thinks of a show plant as one with only a profusion of blossoms and does not consider the value of cultural perfection which adds up to 50% of the total score."

What has brought about the change in culture in recent years from the beautifully proportioned "flat as a wheel" standard size plant to the overgrown specimens with their thick petioles, thick heavy leaves which are often so large they cannot support themselves and, quite often, hang over the edge of the pots, in many cases resting on the counters? The full head of bloom does not compensate for the cultural shortcomings of these specimens.

How in the world did we arrive at this state and how do we get out of it?

Applying normal, good cultural procedures a plant of standard size will have the profusion of bloom and good symmetry for which we all aim at show time. These are the specimens the public wants to see, and these are the specimens they aim to grow.

Lest the foregoing words be considered "sour grapes" or my attitude one of envy, it isn't so, for I have been guilty of growing large plants also. For the following reasons, however, I no longer do so:

Too much space required on my shelves, space which I prefer to devote to growing a larger variety

of specimen plants; the difficulties involved in finding suitable cartons, packing and transporting to and from shows without damage to leaves or petioles (a routine which became somewhat of a nightmare); too much space required on showroom shelves and, finally, the realization of the discouragement felt by the novice growers who feel (and have so-stated) that they can never grow plants of that size and are turned off at the sight of them.

These words will probably not win me any friends but perhaps will influence future exhibitors. Some of my best friends cultivate really large show plants so I sincerely hope neither they nor any one else will be offended by my words.

Will bigger and bigger and bigger take us to the stage where a standard plant will be limited in size as are the miniatures and semiminiatures? Let us hope not!

Winters Dream?



'Winters Dream'

Last year Mrs. Jeanne Maier of 2 Buckingham Place, Lynbrook, NY 11563, purchased a new violet named 'Winters Dream' and it bloomed nicely . . . pure white flowers. "Then suddenly this year a new white bloom was joined by a pure pink bloom, side by side," she said. "The picture clearly shows this unusual phenomenon. I must admit the new brochure from Fischer Nurseries describes 'Winters Dream' as 'huge, semidouble white stars, often kissed with a tint of pink'. I must say I wasn't prepared for that much of a tint!"

AFRICAN VIOLETS DO HELP

*Mrs. James Garden
St. Andrews Group Home
Birmingham, AL*

(ED. NOTE: The AV Study Club of Birmingham, AL furnished African violets as a part of the therapy used at St. Andrews Group Home where one of the club members and her husband, James Garden, are group managers. The home, sponsored by St. Andrews Episcopal Church, is a transitional home where women, released from the State Mental Institution, are placed in the hope they may be rehabilitated and can take their place in the outside world.)

Too often in measuring success we're caught using a standard measuring rule. A measure which (we assume) anyone is capable of meeting. In our case, I think our measure is an African violet, e.g.; shape, freshness of the plant, and blossoms.

When we first started our project it was my goal to produce "a show plant" from St. Andrews Group Home, hopefully to be entered in the African Violet Show. This is where the rule was wrongfully applied. In assuming we could show our residents from Partlow how to produce a quality plant I neglected the individual personality and I persisted, or maybe I should say, I wrestled with teaching our ladies the proper care of an African violet.

Jim and I (Home managers) would come home from our "off days" to see rooms full of wilting violets or worse scorched from setting in the direct sunlight. They went thru plant after plant, until, we discovered that typically, having lived institutional lives, they were used to receiving gifts all the time. They were used to receiving gifts from people outside the institutional setting and having the aides take care of their belongings. Consequently, they never really developed a sense of ownership.

What we found suprising was their interest in the leaves. Not all the leaves made it, however. With one type of failure or another, we are now down to a manageable population. But several of the women have taken a sincere interest in learning how to pot up the plants and proper watering and feeding techniques. This sounds like a turn around but we decided it was a simple case of "I'd rather do it myself". I feel that the women were trying to show us instead of telling that they are out of the Institution and so "please, let us try ourselves" — somewhat a mental form of subconscious rebellion. When it came to the baby plants, the enthusiasm was so much greater.

I believe we should all be proud of our project and our women for several reasons:

1. That we helped them discover the meaning of ownership and responsibility.
2. For giving them a chance to develop a gen-

uine interest in African violets, instead of doing for them.

3. In learning to care for the plants, in such things as grooming, watering etc., this helped them develop for themselves proper grooming techniques.

4. Another GREAT attitude they developed was the giving of African violets. When a visitor had impressed the women they would ask me if they could give her or him a plant. Seeing that I was the only one with blooming plants, my population dwindled until from 40 plants I'm down to 6. I really didn't mind because I knew it was a true feeling of giving that they were experiencing.

5. And last and most important — we treated them as if they were grown women.

Personally, I feel No. 5 is the most important. We have many groups who want to "do for" our ladies and subsequently they tightly monitor their programs; never giving the women a chance to grow internally and I believe that OUR attitudes toward this project have helped our women grow stronger inside.



RECEIVE AWARDS: Mrs. T. K. Thomas (right), is shown receiving a silver tray from Mrs. Warren Rosenbaum (center), show chairman, for her winning entry 'Gem Dandy', Best in Show. Mrs. Edward L. Terry, (left), was winner of the AVSA Gold Rosette, with her entries of 'Final Touch', 'Red Buttons', and 'Corpus Christi'.

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African Violet

MAGAZINE

Volume 31

Number 5

November, 1978



Strictly Business — Your Business

INFORMATION FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH YOUR SOCIETY TO INSURE GOOD SERVICE
IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE ITEM SEND EACH ITEM TO THE CORRECT PERSON
ALWAYS GIVE YOUR NAME AND COMPLETE ADDRESS

MEMBERSHIP

AVSA Membership: Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewal membership to AVSA Treasurer, AVSA office. Life - \$100; Commercial - \$15; Individual - \$6.

AFFILIATES: Chapter - \$6; Council, State or Region - \$15. *Please complete the form received with your renewal notice and return to AVSA office with affiliate dues check.*

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION: Send ideas, offers to help, request for assistance to Mrs. Harold Rienhardt, 4463 W. Seneca Tpk., Syracuse, NY 13215

AFFILIATES: For information on shows awards, how to organize a chapter, or membership questions, write Mrs. Wayne W. Schroeder, 1739 N. 74th Ct., Elmwood Park, IL 60635

AVSA OFFICE: Mrs. Clarice Bell, Office Manager, Box 1326, Knoxville, TN 37901

AVSA EMBLEMS: See Jan. issue - Member, Past President, Life Member pins. Own and wear them with pride. Order from AVSA office.

BEST VARIETIES - HONOR ROLL COMPILER: Mrs. Leon Fiedler, Rt. 1, Prescott, WI 54021

BOOSTER FUND: Send contributions to Mrs. A. F. (Mary) Boland, 6415 Wilcox Ct., Alexandria, VA 22310

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND: Send contributions, club or individual, to Mrs. L. F. Lidiak, 4503 Sinclair Ave., Austin, TX 78756

COMMERCIAL

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES: Albert Buell, Box 218, Eastford, CT 06242

COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Lloyd Lyn McArthur, 1175 Cumberland Rd., NE, Atlanta, GA 30306

CONVENTION:

AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Mrs. R. A. Chase, 482 Rutherford Ave., Redwood City, CA 94061 by Sept. 1.

PROGRAM: Mar. issue. Send special requests for workshop programs; suggest names of interesting speakers to Mrs. J.A.W. Richardson, RR1, Box 70, Tavares, FL 32778.

SCHEDULE: Jan. issue.

TIME AND PLACE: If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Jimmy Watson, 1361 Madison Ave., Apt. 2-AA, New York, NY 10028

CULTURE FOLDERS: Use for shows, with sales, or whatever memberships may be solicited. Membership application included. Free from AVSA office. Please state quantity required.

HANDBOOK FOR JUDGES AND EXHIBITORS: Send \$3 check, payable to AVSA, to AVSA office.

JUDGING SCHOOL: For information on how to become a judge or to register a school, write Mrs. William J. Krogman, 1325 Parkway Dr., Brookfield, WI 53005

LIBRARY: Order AVSA Library slide programs and packets from AVSA office. List in June issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Harvey Stone, 51 Peach Highlands, Marblehead, MA 01945

MAGAZINE:

EDITOR: Mrs. Grace Foote, 211 Allien Pl., Port Arthur, TX 77640

ADVERTISING MANAGER: For advertising rates and copy information write Mrs. Terrance R. Leary, 2088 Illinois Ave., NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33703

AFFILIATE 'APPENINGS: Send to Editor.

ARTICLES: Send to Editor

DEADLINE DATES: JUNE issue, Mar. 1; SEPT. issue, June 1; NOV. issue, Aug. 1; JAN. issue, Oct. 1; MAR. issue, Dec. 1.

BACK ISSUES: Complete your set now. Request price list of available issues from AVSA office.

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CUMULATIVE INDEX: Order from AVSA office.

QUESTION BOX: Mrs. Charles (Katherine) Hawley, 2432 Nottingham Rd., Columbus, OH 43221; Summer address: Rt. 27, West Southport, ME 04576

MAGAZINE MART: To buy or sell copies of the *African Violet Magazine*, contact Mrs. E. A. Nelson, 603 E. Essex Ave., St. Louis, MO 63122

MASTER VARIETY LIST: Number 3 (1976) \$3.50. A must for judges, exhibitors, serious growers. Describes all varieties registered to June 1, 1976, all recognized species, and non-registered cultivars introduced from 1966 to June 1, 1976. Order from AVSA office.

SUPPLEMENT: Send any correction and/or description of new cultivar with hybridizer's name to Plant Registration Chairman.

MINIATURE & SEMINIATURE VARIETY LIST: \$2. Mrs. Sidney Bogin, 39 Boyd St., Long Beach, NY 11561

NOMINATING: Edith V. Peterson, 1545 Green Street, San Francisco, CA 94123

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE: AVSA Secretary; Mrs. H. N. Hansen, 708 Wyndale Rd., Jenkintown, PA 19046

PARLIAMENTARIAN: Mrs. Thomas J. Edmundson, 4605 NW 45th St., Tamarac, FL 33319 is available to answer parliamentary questions for affiliates. Send SASE for reply.

PLANT REGISTRATION: Mrs. Fred Tretter, 4988 Schollmeyer Ave., St. Louis, MO 63109

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research, or names of interested qualified potential research personnel to Frank Tinari, 2325 Valley Rd., Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

WATCH FOR SPECIAL INFORMATION IN THESE ISSUES: AFFILIATE LIST - Nov.; BEST VARIETIES LIST - Nov.; JUDGES & TEACHERS - Sept.; LIBRARY PROGRAMS - June; LIFE MEMBERS - June; MASTER VARIETY SUPPLEMENT - Sept.; MINUTES - Sept.; NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT - Jan.; OFFICERS & COMMITTEES - June; SHOW & JUDGES RULES CHANGES - Sept.; TALLY TIME - Mar.; TREASURER'S & AUDITOR'S REPORT - Sept.



African Violet

MAGAZINE

Vol. 31 Number 5

November, 1978

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the method and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

COVER PAGE: 'Pure Water' by Ronn Nadeau is the beautiful African violet shown on the Cover Page. 'Pure Water' has a single white star bloom held high above dark quilted foliage, reminding one of a cool mountain spring. (Photo by Frank Burton)

PERTAINING TO VIOLETS

4. Growing Pains Not Painful at All—Mrs. W. F. Anderson
5. Did You Know . . .
6. Choosing a Show Plant—Elizabeth Hansen
8. To Remove Suckers
10. A Silent Salesman!
11. Finds Remedy for Yellowing Leaves—Candy Russell
12. A Not-So-Dirty Business—Christine D. Leppard
14. Slides Taken of Western Hybrids—Harriette Poss
14. New Dimensions in African Violets—Mrs. Sidney Bogin
15. Originally a Vegetable Operation, Greenhouse Converted to Violets—Dori Macomber
16. My Unwelcome Violet Visitor—Jean Halford
17. Constructing a Violet Stand—Mrs. D. E. (Shirlee) Sands
18. Posing Your Posies—Frank Burton
23. Separating Plantlets
24. Educational Exhibit
24. Poem, "Another"
27. Portraits: Mrs. H. Steven Johnson
31. African Violet Book Off Press
33. "Wee Lass" Mutant
43. Coming Events
45. Seasonable Suggestions—Anne Tinari
47. Experiments Pay Off—Mrs. Albert (Gertrude) Blouw
52. Do Not Reuse Soil
53. Texas Style—The Best of Two Worlds—Kenneth A. Bowman
56. Affiliate 'Appenings
69. Poem "My Violets"
70. Grower Finds New Plant Growing System—Mrs. Frank Anders
71. An Accidental Beginning—Mrs. Sharon Copeland
71. It's Contagious!—Deb Dildrine
72. Wanted: Dardevil

COLUMNISTS

3. Holiday Greetings From the President—Gene Garner
24. Beginners Column "How to Choose Plants"—Mrs. J.A.W. (Ann) Richardson

26. Cross Your I's . . . and . . . Dot Your T's—Mrs. W. F. Anderson
27. AVSA Affiliates—Mrs. Wayne (Mildred) Schroeder
33. Registration Report—Adele Tretter
42. Boyce Edens Research Fund—Mrs. L. F. Lidiak
42. AVSA Booster Fund—Mrs. Arthur F. (Mary) Boland
44. A Foote on the Violet Path—Grace Foote
46. Your Library—Harvey L. Stone
48. Question Box—Mrs. C. S. Hawley
51. 1978 Best Varieties—Mrs. Leon Fiedler
55. Musings from the 'Mini-Mam'—Mrs. Sidney (Ellie) Bogin

MISCELLANEOUS

9. Notes from a Novice Achimenes—Jackie Cruse
43. Add Gift Memberships to Your Christmas List
52. In Memoriam
54. Be Careful With Fluorescent Tubes—Dr. Alvin W. Shultz
54. Popularity of Achimenes
65. Life Member—Mrs. Maude Cook

SOCIETY BUSINESS

INSIDE FRONT COVER— "Strictly Business—Your Business"

5. She's a Judge
21. Commercials
33. Moving???
34. Affiliate Organizations
41. Judging School
43. Add Gift Memberships to your Christmas List
46. New Life Members
47. Will You Join?—Rhoda Retkovis

CONVENTION

14. Convention Dates
30. Commercial Views AVSA Convention—Jerry A. Barnard
41. Colorado—Tall and Terrific—Linda Boster
54. On Being an Affiliate Delegate—Cecile L. Ambler

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African Violet Society of America, Inc.

P. O. Box 1326

Knoxville, TN 37901

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1010 Edgewood, S.E., North Canton, OH 44720
MRS. W. J. KROGMAN.....1st Vice President
1325 Parkway Drive, Brookfield, WI 53005
MR. HARVEY L. STONE.....2nd Vice President
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RR #1, Box 70, Tavares, FL 32778
MRS. H. N. HANSEN.....Secretary
708 Wyndale Road, Jenkintown, PA 19046
MISS FLORENCE M. GARRITY.....Treasurer
36 Cerdan Avenue, Roslindale, MA 02131

STAFF

MRS. GRACE FOOTE, Editor
211 Allien Place, Port Arthur, TX 77640
MRS. TERRANCE R. LEARY, Adv. Mgr.
2088 Illinois Ave., NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33703
MRS. CLARICE BELL, Office Manager
P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, TN 37901
MRS. W. F. ANDERSON, Publications Chairman
360 Tulip Drive, St. Louis, MO 63119
COLUMNISTS:
Mrs. James Carey, Mrs. Sidney Bogin, Harvey L.
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84. African Violetry
76. African Violet Culture Book
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75. Becker Printing Company—AV Notepaper
82. Betty Jo's Garden Center
74. Betty's African Violet Shop
75. Beverly's Violets
76. Bill and Marleen's African Violets
75. Fran Bingham
72. Boswell & Barnard
75. Buell's Greenhouses
84. Bugtussle Violets
85. Butler's Nursery
89. Cal Coast Growers
81. Cape Cod Violetry
86. Cap'n Salty's Leaves
76. Christine's Flowerland
79. Cindy's Violetry
74. Clarel Laboratories—Granny's Bloomers
85. Corlee: Roigiana

74. Cramer's
88. Crestwood Violetry
84. DoDe's Gardens
74. Downtown Simonton Herb Farm
86. Drossos Gesneriad Greenhouse
INSIDE BACK COVER — Fischer's Greenhouses
86. Floralite Co.—Lumen lighter plant stands
88. FloraCart Watering Wand—Quick, neat, easy
76. Fredette Originals
80. Fredette Originals
87. Fredette Originals
72. Elisa Frew
87. The Green House
88. Heavenly Violets
88. C. K. Holley
83. Home Grow Products
85. House of Violets
76. Island Gesneriads
73. Indoor Gardening Supplies
87. Ellen Kohl
75. Albert Kreiger
78. Lebens Plant Company
76. Lee's African Violets
82. Irene Lineberg
82. Louise's Greenhouse
88. Elenora M. Lyon
73. Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses, Inc.
79. Madame Butterfly
81. Mary's African Violets
82. Messin-Round Violetry
75. R. J. Miderski
74. Mountain Greenery of New Mexico, Inc.
75. Patrick Products
88. Petite Dream Shoppe
87. Patches & Pots
73. Pat's Violet World
85. Petroffsky Greenhouses
80. Plant Marvel
80. Plantsmith
85. A Rainbow of Violets
82. Ray's African Violets
86. Reigning Violets
80. Rose Knoll Farms
83. St. Louis Violet Nurseries
73. Schultz Instant Food
76. Sheri's Greenhouses
74. Shoplite Co.—New decorative plant stands
74. Sooner State Violet Nursery
76. Strawther Violets
80. Sweet Violets by Sharon Williams
BACK COVER—Tinari Greenhouses
76. Tingle's African Violets
72. Treiber Associates—Liquid Compost
83. Violet Buds & Blossoms
86. Violet Depot
81. Violet Gardens
77. Violet House
85. Violet Village
81. Violet Ville
89. Violets at the Ernst's
79. Violets Atlanta
75. Violets Galore at the Gorals
81. Volkmann's
82. The Walkers
82. Worl of Violets
83. Woods of Canada

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Holiday Greetings From The President



It is my hope that all of you have enjoyed a safe, healthy and relaxed summer.

As Thanksgiving Day draws near and you COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS, I'm sure they will include, not only family and friends, but also beautiful blooming African violet plants, African violets that are the result of many hours of patient hard work on the part of our outstanding hybridizers and research workers who are interested in the development and improvement of this very special plant.

While most of the shows are over for the 1978 year, I'm sure plans are under way for many 1979 spring shows. Such beautiful new varieties to choose from, as well as many that have proven to be in the winners' circle for many growers in the past. To demonstrate this, from the Austin show in 1978, are some of the new commercial introductions. If you haven't seen the new library slide program "VIOLETS AT THE ALAMO", you should send your request early, to the Knoxville office, (as per instructions on page 33, of the June 1978 issue of the magazine.) Share with your club members and other friends, these new beauties and the plants to look for in the near future.

The award winners, both commercial and amateur, in the Austin show are well presented in the library program "DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS". This panorama of well-grown plants could really be called the "Pride of Texas". Such beautiful, large plants!

For our conventions, we really do get around the country! Next year we will go from "The Heart of Texas", to violets a mile high, in "Tall and Terrific Denver". So—I hear that in the Denver area they are humming with activity for our convention there in June 1979. What a great opportunity to display your horticultural talents and your artistic ones as well. Start NOW to groom your plants. The dates—June 6 - 10, 1979.

As the Christmas Season comes into focus, I would like to suggest that we have many suitable gifts to offer. Not only a subscription to AVSA, with its magazine full of help and resource, but also the beautiful AVSA emblems. Of course a gift of new plants to an African violet grower is a most cherished thought. What more could one give — or receive — and be thankful for, than a living, growing, gift of love and beauty.

Very best wishes to all of you for a joyous Holiday Season and a New Year full of purpose and promise.

Sincerely,

Gene Garner

GROWING PAINS NOT PAINFUL AT ALL

Mrs. W. F. Anderson
360 Tulip Drive, St. Louis, MO 63119

Although I wasn't there, accounts in the African Violet Magazine about AVSA's organization have been read with interest. In 1946 there were only a few commercial African violet and other gesneriad growers in this country. To build a large variety collection, it was necessary for growers to correspond with each other. Correspondence often started through magazine Round Robins which led to swapping varieties or leaf cuttings.

In the summer of 1946, Charles J. Hudson, Jr., who was connected with the Hastings Company at that time, started planning an African violet show with the help of a committee of Atlanta African violet growers. The show was held November 8-9 at the H. G. Hastings Seed Company headquarters in downtown Atlanta, Georgia.

This first full-scale African violet show in the world was an historical event in many ways but mostly because it was the forerunner of the organization of the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

A tiny notice in Flower Grower magazine, which appeared a month before the show, brought inquiries from 22 states. Ads in the local papers and notices in other garden magazines stimulated interest. More than 100 Atlanta amateur growers and more than 100 others brought entries from all over Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi and Tennessee. Growers from Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana also participated and one enthusiastic fan came all the way from Iowa.

Visitors from 103 cities and towns in 14 states came to see the show and the unexpected large attendance necessitated police help to direct traffic. An estimated eight to ten thousand people viewed that first show.

Although there were no AVSA judges in 1946 (AVSA held its first judging school under the direction of Mrs. James B. (Ruth) Carey at the Dayton, Ohio, convention in 1951 when 136 certificates were issued) this first show was judged by knowledgeable growers. A picture of the judges was published in the magazine. They were Mel Griggs, New Bedford, PA and Carl E. Goode, Atlanta, GA. Others, whose home towns are given elsewhere, were Mrs. J. W. Freed, Mrs. Robert Wright, Mrs. O. E. Kellar, Miss Fay Wilcox, Boyce M. Edens and Charles J. Hudson, Jr.

Varieties available in 1946 could be listed on one

typewritten page. Some of the species were grown, some early hybrid cultivars were known, doubles were just beginning to be developed, variegated leaf forms were quite a novelty and there were no stars, edged blossoms, miniatures or trailers then.

The favorite varieties exhibited in the 1946 show were 'Blue Boy', 'Blue Bird', 'Blue Girl', 'Topaz', 'Sapphire', 'Blue Ionantha', 'White Ionantha', 'Ionantha grandifolia', 'Norseman', 'Amethyst', 'Lavender Lady', 'Blue Eyes', 'Pink Beauty', 'duPont Pink', 'White Lady', 'Orchid Beauty', 'Trilby', 'Plum Pink', 'Mary Wac', 'Orchid Lady', 'Bicolor', 'Dwarf Orchid', 'Number 32', 'Pink Lady', 'Blushing Lady', 'Blush Beauty', and one listed as 'Variegated Leaf Sport'.

After the show closed that first day exhibitors and judges, both out-of-town and local people, met in the Blue Flame Room of the Atlanta Gas Light Company with Mr. Hudson presiding. A society was suggested and by unanimous vote a temporary organization was established to explore the possibility of a permanent organization. Officers of the organization committee were Charles J. Hudson, Jr., temporary chairman; Boyce M. Edens, acting secretary; and Mrs. G. E. Rhodes, treasurer.

The following day as the show was coming to a close, Mr. Hudson was asked to call a meeting of the temporary organization — which he did — with a small number present the African Violet Society was started. Those present who paid three dollars membership dues became the Organizing Charter Members of the society. They were Mrs. F. L. Beers, College Park, GA; Mrs. O. E. Kellar, Des Moines, IA; Nelson Crist, Mrs. G. E. Rhodes, Charles J. Hudson, Jr., and Boyce M. Edens, all of Atlanta, GA; Mrs. J. W. Freed, Feasterville, PA; Mrs. Robert Wright, Knoxville, TN; Mrs. Pat Crowe, Chattanooga, TN; and Miss Faye Wilcox, New Bedford, PA.

The newly organized society elected and installed permanent officers for 1947: Mrs. O. E. Kellar, president; C. J. Hudson, Jr., first vice-president; W. D. Holley, Cromwell, CT, second vice-president; Mrs. Robert Wright, recording secretary; Lewis E. Cook, Gainesville, NY, corresponding secretary, and Boyce M. Edens, treasurer.

That first show spearheaded intense interest in

African violets throughout the country. Thousands of letters were received in response to a small notice in the February, 1947, Better Homes and Gardens magazine about the formation of AVSA. In response to publicity in various national magazines, membership grew rapidly and on July 1, 1947, Charter Memberships were closed at 250. By the time the first annual meeting, there were 1,200 members.

In March 1947, President Kellar called a meeting in Atlanta. This was a busy planning session. Those present were officers Kellar, Hudson, Wright and Edens and organizing charter members Crowe, Rhodes and Crist. Nelson Crist was authorized to draft bylaws and have the society incorporated under the laws of Georgia. Articles of incorporation were filed by Mr. Crist in the office of the Secretary of State (GA) on June 30, 1947 for a period of 35 years. The names of the petitioners on the articles of incorporation, all Georgia residents, are: Mrs. F. L. Beers, Mrs. G. E. Rhodes, C. J. Hudson, Nelson Crist and Boyce M. Edens.

A "Bulletin" was planned and W. D. Holley, second vice-president, was asked to edit it but was unable to do so because of the press of other work he was doing at the time. President Kellar asked Mrs. Robert (Alma) Wright to undertake the job of editor. The name African Violet Magazine was selected and Mrs. Frank (Mary) Parker became coeditor. Only 500 copies of the 12 page Volume 1, Number 1 were printed in 1947, and these were addressed by hand. Mrs. Wright continued to edit the magazine through Volume 17, Number 1 and was succeeded by the present editor, Mrs. Henry P. (Grace) Foote, whose term began with the December 1963 issue.

Plans were made to hold the first annual AVSA meeting at the Ansley Hotel in Atlanta, October 9-10, 1947, to be combined with a show in the Atlanta Municipal Auditorium Annex under the direction of C. J. Hudson, Jr. Show proceeds were donated to charity under the agreement with the Municipal Auditorium.

More than 2,500 people attended the show. Seventy-seven exhibitors from 20 states exhibited 286 plants of 62 varieties. Commercial growers also had exhibits but these were not judged. Saintpaulia ionantha, exhibited by H. G. Harvey, Dunwoody, GA was judged best-in-show. Mr. Harvey later served two terms as AVSA president in 1956-1958. The show was the center of attraction at convention and established the precedent of having a show at each annual society meeting.

President Kellar was unable to attend the first convention and First Vice-President Hudson officiated. Officers elected at the first annual business meeting were Mrs. O. E. Kellar, president; Mrs. O. M. Coleman, first vice-president; Mrs. J. W. Good, second

vice-president; Mrs. Robert Wright, recording secretary; Mrs. Frank Pochurek, corresponding secretary, and Boyce M. Edens, treasurer.

Mr. Edens continued to serve as AVSA treasurer until his death December 2, 1952. He was the first recipient of an Honorary Life Membership conferred by the society in 1949. He was an ardent supporter of the Scientific Research Project which he and Henry Peterson originated. At the Nashville (TN) convention in 1953 at the suggestion of the Research Committee, the society's Scientific Research Project became the Boyce Edens Research Fund as a memorial to him. Mr. Edens also organized the first nomenclature meeting which evolved from the committee first headed by W. D. Holley into the present registration system.

In the "President's Message" in the second issue of the magazine, President Kellar said of the AVSA officers and committees: "They all will serve without remuneration except for the personal pleasure and profit that comes from working together in a delightful and satisfying mutual interest." This policy, established the first year the society was organized continues. AVSA was founded by devoted people whose influence continues through a long line of firsts and great progress to the present more than 28,000 member organization.

References

- AVM Volume 1, Number 1, Page 6
- Volume 1, Number 2, Page 4
- Volume 6, Number 3, Page 11
- Volume 7, Number 2, Page 8
- Volume 18, Number 1, Page 62
- Volume 18, Number 2, Page 26
- Volume 19, Number 3, Page 39
- Volume 21, Number 4, Page 43
- Volume 23, Number 4, Page 21

AFRICAN VIOLET HERITAGE by Anne Tinari

She's a Judge

Mrs. C. Patrick Bell, 5306 Pinewilde, Houston, TX 77066 is an AVSA judge, even though she wasn't listed in the September Magazine with other Texas judges. She was listed with the Tennessee judges at her former address in Germantown, TN. Now Mrs. Bell is back in her home state and she's looking forward to the opportunity to judge some lovely flower shows in Texas.

Did you know. . .

The proper name for mealy bug is PSEUDOCOC-CUS? That's what Illinois AVS' official publication, "AV Leaves", summer issue says.

Choosing a Show Plant

Elizabeth Hansen
708 Wyndale Road
Jenkintown, PA 19046

Many persons ask how to grow a show plant.

Without plants there can be no show and without good plants there can be no Green Rosette which, among other things, takes into consideration the horticultural perfection of the plants.

Let's start with the choosing of a plant. The African Violet Magazine carries each year a list of plants which have been chosen by growers from all over the country as being the best ones they have grown, the list of 25 Best Varieties. When a plant has been on this list for five years it goes on the permanent Honor Roll and you know that it must be a very good variety. It can also be helpful to read the Affiliate 'Appenings column and note which plants are consistent winners. They may not be well enough known yet to make the Best Varieties List but it is a pretty good indication of what is good.

Plants with tailored leaves are the easiest to grow into a nice flat rosette but a ruffled leaf plant, when it is well grown, can be spectacular.

The number of blooms a plant will produce is important. Some plants will put up two bloom stalks for each leaf and this helps with floriferousness. Double blooms will last longer than single blooms and this also helps, though some of the newer single blooms will stay on better than they did with the old varieties.

The size of the plant is not too important as the plant is judged on the **amount of bloom in proportion to the size of the plant**. Your blooms will usually come only from the three or four center rows of leaves and more leaves should be removed from a good many of the plants that are entered in a show. Not only are the outer leaves more apt to be marred due to age but leaves which are past their prime can take strength away from the plant rather than helping it.

So—start with a good variety, one which has proven itself. Be sure it has a good center. Be sure it should be a prolific bloomer. Be sure it is given the best of care.

"THE TEN PROPER"

There are ten environmental factors necessary to produce a show plant. They are proper cleansing, feeding, humidity, light, potting, soil, space, spraying, temperature and watering.

POTTING—You have chosen your plant. Now

let's consider what size and/or type of pot it should be grown in. The general rule of thumb for the size of pot is that it should be approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ the diameter of the plant. However, if you should have a fairly large plant with a poor root system, it would be better to cut down on the size of the plant by trimming some of the old outside leaves and putting the plant in a fairly small pot until new roots develop to fill up the pot. If you put the plant in a large pot there is the danger of overwatering the plant and it may well succumb to root rot from lack of oxygen in the soil.

There are all sorts of pots and containers that may be used. One of our members is very partial to the Moist-Rite Pots. I have had very good success with Aquamatic Planters. Both work on the same principle of supplying only as much water as the plant can use and both have the advantage of holding enough water to last two to three weeks so that you don't have to water the plant every few days. However, the directions which come with them must be very carefully followed.

WICKING—Another method to use is to put your plants on a wick by the use of nylon or fiberglass wicks, not cotton which will rot. The size of the wick you use depends on the size of the pot you are using — the larger the pot the heavier the wick — but it is best to experiment until you find the best size for each pot size. You can also use old nylon hose cut in strips but the danger here, I find, is that you are apt to use too wide, and therefore too heavy, a wick and may quickly kill your plant. All of my plants which are not in Aquamatic Planters are on wicks. I find that wicking has had an extra bonus on which I did not count when I started to use this method about eight years ago. Since the pots are raised by sitting on the reservoirs they are closer to the lights and this has resulted in better bloom.

SOIL—With both of the above methods it is most necessary that you use a **very loose, porous soil** which will not stay too wet. The soil we sell in our club store is excellent but I add at least an equal amount of perlite and vermiculite (mostly perlite) to it when I use either wicking or self-watering pots. **Any soil** you use for African violets should be porous and drain quickly as lack of oxygen in the soil due to constant wetness and compacting will quickly cause root or crown rot and it is very difficult to save a

plant once either one starts.

FEEDING AND WATERING—With either of the above methods it is also easy to feed your plants as you merely add your fertilizer at 1/4 to 1/8 strength to the water you put in the reservoir. By this method of constant feeding it is impossible to forget to feed your plants as it is when you intend to do so every two or three weeks and forget.

If you do not use self watering pots or wicks for your plants you should water your plants only when the soil feels dry to the touch. This means that each plant must be watered only when it needs it, not on any set schedule. More plants are lost due to over-watering than any other mistreatment. The water should be tepid, never cold as cold water will cause spots on the leaves. You can often tell by the color of the soil or the weight of the pot when it is getting too dry. Do not let the plants stand in water. If water accumulates in the saucer empty it out after about one half hour, giving the plant a chance to absorb all the water it can use. Constant wetness will cause root or crown rot.

GROOMING, CLEANSING, SPACE, HUMIDITY AND TEMPERATURE

You have now chosen your show plant and put it in a suitable container of your choice with proper soil. It is being fed constantly, watered automatically and, hopefully, is off to a good start.

GROOMING AND CLEANSING—Since you will have to fill the reservoirs only every two or three weeks, when that day comes it is a good idea to check the plant thoroughly each time. Suckers must be removed as soon as they appear to maintain the symmetry of your plant. Faded blooms and damaged and yellowed leaves should be removed regularly. This is the time to check on the symmetry of the plant and if you find a wayward leaf which will not stay in place or have a gap in the symmetry from the removal of a bad leaf, you can use a plastic toothpick or a thin straw to gently push it into place. Do this gradually until it will stay where you want it to. After it is trained you can remove the training stick. Also be sure the stick is removed before entering the plant in a show.

Your plant will appreciate a gentle spraying with warm water. Not only does this help to keep the foliage clean but it helps to maintain the high humidity around your plants, which they need. You can also combine foliar feeding with the spray but be sure to read the label of the fertilizer before you do this. Some fertilizers are not suitable for foliar feeding so unless the label gives you directions on the strength to use don't attempt it.

SPACE—In order to grow symmetrically a plant

needs plenty of room to spread out. It should not touch other plants. Also overcrowding may lead to mildew which, if left untreated, can kill your plants. There are several good products on the market which will control mildew which usually occurs when plants are too crowded, there is no circulation of air and there are frequent changes in temperature.

HUMIDITY—Proper humidity is important, not only to promote large blossoms but to prevent bud blast. Too high a humidity, especially in summer, can cause trouble but in our steam heated homes during the winter it is often very difficult to maintain good humidity. This can be increased in several ways - spraying frequently, placing turkey grits, pebbles or other material in the trays and keeping them wet, placing open containers of water among the plants, the use of a humidifier, or covering your stands with plastic to keep the humidity around the plants where you want it. If you do use a plastic cover do not make it airtight as there will be no circulation of air. Only you can decide on which method or methods to use in your conditions.

TEMPERATURE—Along with proper humidity goes proper temperature. At 50 degrees an African violet will stop growing. Temperatures above 80 degrees may also slow growth. A daytime temperature of 70-80 degrees seems to suit them with a drop of 10 degrees at night if possible. A plant which has been badly chilled by being left near a window in very cold weather may show its resentment by becoming brittle and tight in the center looking almost like mite damage.

LIGHT—Probably the most important factor in growing African violets is proper light. Lack of sufficient light is usually the main reason why plants refuse to bloom. Also lack of light may cause the plant to grow upright instead of flat, which is the way a show plant should be grown. If a plant is receiving too much light the leaves will curl down around the pot in an effort to avoid the light and the foliage may also become bleached.

If you are growing your African violets on a windowsill you must remember to give them a 1/4 turn every few days so that they will not become lopsided. All plants will grow toward the light. You must also protect them from the cold at night and from the very strong mid-day sun during the summer. You must be very careful that when you water you do not let any water stay on the leaves when the plant is in the sunlight. A droplet of water acts like a magnifying glass when the sun hits it and will cause a hole or brown spot on the leaf. If you spray with warm water be sure that the plant is dry before replacing it in the window. In the winter you can give the plants all the sunlight you can find in this section of the country, even noonday sun, as the sun is low in the sky and rather weak. However, in the summer give

them early morning or late afternoon sun but no mid-day sun as it is far too strong. You can tell by the way your plant reacts whether it is getting too much or too little light.

Growing under fluorescent lights is another thing entirely. Not only can you control the number of hours of light the plant receives but you can control many of the other environmental factors far better than you can in natural light. Since your plant will be in constant growth it will need more frequent watering and heavier feeding. However, it too should be turned often, especially if grown at the ends of the tubes or the edges of the light.

There are almost as many different theories about what kinds of tubes to use as there are growers. Some growers swear by the special growth tubes, others maintain that the cheaper and more available tubes are just as good if not better. The Indoor Light Gardening Society recommends one cool white and one warm white tube in each fixture. Experimentation will tell you how long to leave the lights on but plants need at least an eight hour period of complete darkness in order to make use of the products of photosynthesis which occurs during the light period. This is the process of converting carbon dioxide from the air and water to produce food and oxygen.

Good light is most important in the growth of your plant. The tubes should be changed as soon as the ends become dark and, in any case, at least once a year.

INSECTS AND DISEASES—Another important factor in growing show plants is the control of insects and pests which may attack your plants. You should maintain a regular spraying program with one of the good products recommended for African violets in order to prevent any trouble and you should spray them before entering them in a show to be sure that you don't pass along any unwanted guests to other plants. It is also a good idea to spray them when you bring them home again as they can pick up insects and diseases from other plants which have not yet shown any symptoms of trouble.

Any new acquisitions should be isolated for four weeks or more to be sure they are free of troubles which may spread to the rest of your collection. Also you should use only sterilized soil and your pots, when reused, should also be sterilized. This is easily done by soaking them in clorox and water for a time and rinsing them well before reusing. Remove all faded blooms and spent leaves which might attract trouble. Be careful not to bring in insects from the garden and, if you do not wick your plants or have them in automatic watering pots, be sure that you place a saucer under each plant as insects such as nematodes and soil mealy bugs can travel over the moist pebbles from plant to plant.

You can also add a systemic insecticide, such as Isotox crystals, to your soil. A systemic insecticide is one which is absorbed by the plant and thus the plant is protected for a certain period of time against such things as mealy bugs, mites, thrips, and aphids — in fact any insect which sucks the juices from the plant when feeding. Systemics are slow to act so should not be used as an emergency measure, just as a preventative. If the trouble is already evident you must resort to other measures, such as spraying or dipping, according to the trouble. Whatever method you use be sure to follow the directions as to the strength to be used as stated on the container.

A good many of the cures we previously used are now banned for use by amateur growers and what we have left is usually slower and not as effective but much safer to use. Try to catch any trouble as soon as it starts to develop so that you won't lose your entire collection of plants.

There are many excellent articles in the African Violet Magazine. Go back through your copies and read up on the various problems. When trouble strikes you may be very glad that you did!

TO REMOVE SUCKERS

To remove suckers, a curved nut pick can be a very useful tool. Handle carefully with sharp curved tip put right behind the sucker. It will remove or lift it with one clean stroke.



WINS AWARD: Mrs. Hazel Douglas' artistic planting, "John Paul Jones", was winner of a Tri-Color Award.

Notes from a Novice: *Achimenes*

Mr. Jackie Cruse
Route 1, Box 300
Shelbyville, TX 75973

Achimenes belonging to the Gesneriaceae family grow from scaly rhizomes, like a small pine cone or birch catkin. They are cousins to the African violet and growing conditions are similar.

There is nothing more beautiful than a cascade of *A. Purple King* growing from a hanging basket, pot on a shelf, or a window box. Some plants reach only a height of six inches while others sprawl out the length of several feet. Here in deep East Texas and on the Gulf Coast, *achimenes* can be grown outside the year 'round.

The shipment of rhizomes starts during February through May if the weather is permitting. Most shippers use dry vermiculite. When rhizomes are received, put them just under the surface of the potting soil. When the weather warms up, signs of growth will appear. Watering should begin then. One special requirement for growing *achimenes* is necessary and that is they must never be allowed to dry down after growth appears. Water the plants lightly every day.

There are numerous African violet potting soils to use. The *Saintpaulia* No. 5 has always been a favorite, with a little sand mixed in to supply the plants with calcium which *achimenes* need. *Saintpaulia* No. 5 formula: 1 quart of Black Magic potting soil, 1 quart of Baccto, 1 pint of ground egg shells, 1 cup of charcoal, and 1 tablespoon 20% superphosphate.

In hanging baskets there may be a dozen rhizomes planted. In a three-inch pot, use three or four rhizomes. They can be grown separately or mixed rhizomes. Either way can result only in a display of beauty.

Fertilizer may be used at one-fourth teaspoon to a gallon of water. Always keep the soil damp. If plants are kept in direct sun light, do not pour water on the leaves. This will spot the leaves.

Achimenes are automatic propagators: They increase their own rhizomes underground. Some will produce at a ratio of 1.5. Tip cuttings and leaves may be rooted early in the season as soon as the leaves are large enough.

A very rare experience one summer was a leaf to produce a plantlet at the end of a vein in mid-air.

The red and orange blossoms seem harder to get into bloom.

Grow some *achimenes*! It will be an exhilarating summer experience. At the end of the blooming season, rhizomes will signal a period of dormancy or

rest by drying leaves. Just put the pots for winter in a closet or under a bench, withhold all water until new growth appears next spring.

Some of the ones that performed beautifully for me this year:

(1) *Ambroise Verschaffelt*-trace of purple veining on the white face of the flowers.

(2) *Violacea Semi Plena*-deep purple semidouble flowers on a dwarf plant.

(3) *Tiny Blue-blue* blooms with a very unusual foliage.

(4) *A. andrieuxii*-dwarf plant under six inches in height with bell-shaped violet and white flowers.

(6) *Camillo Brozzoni*-many, many small flowers are pale purple with white throats that are speckled with yellow and violet. One of the best bloomers in my collection.

(7) *Purple King*-large purple flowers have pale lavender throats-very free blooming.

(8) *A. dulcis*-a white bloom with a yellow throat.

This is not all in my collection, but a few that really do their "thing" for me.

Try your "green thumb" next summer with *achimenes*. You will enjoy them.



AT CLINIC:—Here are some of the plants on display at the "Grow a Better Violet" clinic held by the ABC's of African Violets Club in Brownwood. Mrs. Gwen Hawek (center) a club member, explains about a small variegated violet, 'Little Cupcake', as Mary Harvey and Dorothy Trusevich listen.

A Silent Salesman!

A Silent Salesman!

Have you ever thought of your African violets in such terms?

The Lower Bucks County AVS of Levittown, PA, took on such a project for their library and here's the thanks they received from Mrs. Inita Ruis, librarian:

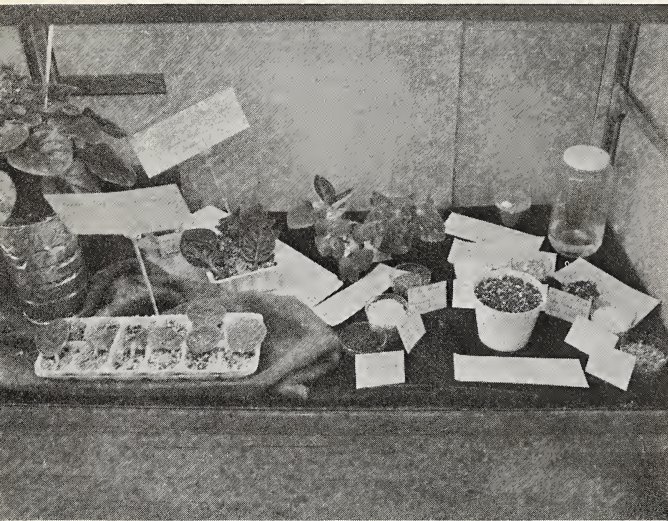
"On behalf of the staff and patrons of the library at the Lower County Center, I wish to express my thanks to the African Violet Society of Lower Bucks County for their truly handsome display in our library.

"The plants were just beautiful and the variety of color so very pleasing to the eye.

"The information on care that the Society provided was very enlightening and supplied answers to questions posed by many patrons in regard to the African violet plant.

"We hope that you will again deem it feasible to display your lovely plants for us in the future."

But let's let Bill Lyons, then club president, tell



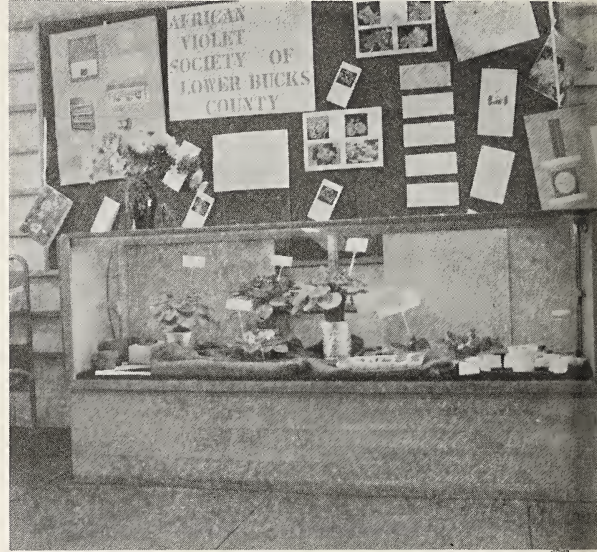
AVSA Culture Sheets

about their month-long project, which they term their "Silent Salesman" a very colorful and educational undertaking:

The local public library was contacted and arrangements were gladly accepted for a month long display by our club members. The project chairman, George Smith, with the help of many of the club members set up and maintained the display. Almost 100% membership participation was involved.

The large bulletin board, with the Society name, showed charts on lighting, humidity, watering and the overall general care of African violets. AVSA magazines, some opened to important beginners articles, AVSA culture sheets and other AVSA infor-

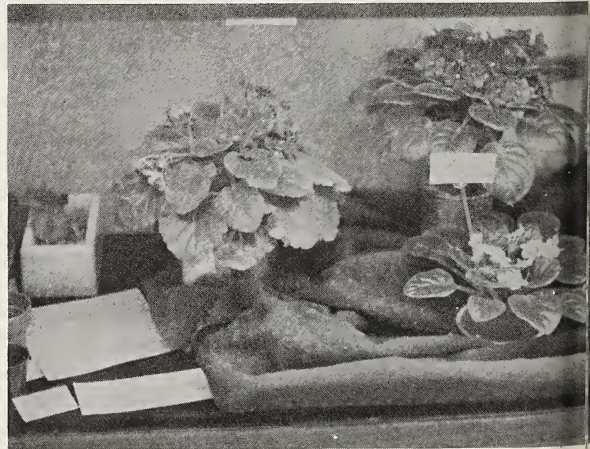
mation and tips, along with a copy of our AVSA charter and other information regarding the benefits of belonging to AVSA were displayed. Copies of our own previous activities, yearbooks and show schedules helped to round-out some details of an affiliate.



Inside Lighted Case

Inside the lighted show case, various kinds and all sizes of pots with instructions for repotting and wicking were displayed. Self-watering containers were also shown. Fertilizing and watering instructions were placed near by the methods of propagating. A well balanced soil mixture, its ingredients and purpose, along with a pH graph were provided.

Each Monday afternoon, members would visit the library and freshen the display and then replace different varieties of blooming African violets to be



Display of Violets

viewed for the week. Saturday afternoon, the plants were removed by their owners and a fresh batch of bloomers were placed on the following Monday by different members. All members that signed up knew in advance their week to participate and display. All types, standards, trailers, variegated and mini's were represented during the month. All of the plants were wicked by the owners. As the varieties were changed weekly, the different range of colors, helped to maintain and hold the public interest all month. The very large standards and the variegated received the most comments. A large supply of AVSA culture folders were left with the librarian and were available to those expressing or asking for more information. Many of the members, while just visiting, stayed for hours answering questions and promoting the display. This was unscheduled and strictly voluntary. A club information board with time and place of our meetings, and a phone number to contact a club member were available for the general public.

Finds Remedy for Yellowing Leaves

*Candy Russell
278 Maple Valley
Houston, TX 77056*

I began growing African violets three years ago and I now have over 500 plants. Up until a year and a half ago I grew nice plants with good foliage and bloom. I have always wick watered my plants and used rainwater or sometimes tap water whenever rainwater wasn't available. Then, it happened! Almost every standard size plant began yellowing on the outer, older leaves. Sometimes the yellowing would be accompanied with red "veins" on the leaf or sometimes the whole leaf would become transparent and then mushy. I knew that this was not fertilizer burn because there was no tell-tail yellow lines along the leaf edges.

I asked everyone I knew if they were having similar problems and many were but not to the extent that I had. I only knew that my soil pH was within normal limits and no matter how yellow the leaves were, blooming was terrific. I stripped off rows and rows of yellow leaves and repotted my plants into different commercial potting mixtures. Nothing I did helped; each outer row of leaves turned yellow and usually had red veins. I bought some standard size plants from a friend in another city and within a month those lovely plants were getting yellow leaves and these plants were grown in a dif-

ferent potting soil mixture from the one I was using. So, either my problems were caused by the fertilizer I was using or the water itself.

Houstonians have learned not to use tap water because of its hardness or "salts" content. If we top water with it, the plants seem all right but if you wick water with it—watch out! I would much rather wick water my plants than to top water them.

One day last spring I went to our club show and sale. One of the club members, Mrs. Evelyn Wood, was selling some of the nicest, greenest young African violet plants I have ever seen. I asked her what she was feeding them and she said Volkman's fertilizer— $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon per gallon and fish emulsion. Shake well. She uses $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon per gallon of fish emulsion once a month.

I have always used Volkman fertilizer and so do many of my friends who grow beautiful plants. I had never tried using fish emulsion because it smells awful, even the "deodorized" kind. Last June I repotted everything and began using $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon Volkman fertilizer and add $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 teaspoon fish emulsion per gallon of water every time I filled my wick pots and trays. Within two months time, the yellowing stopped. Those leaves which were already yellow to begin with never did green up but, wonder of wonders, those standards of mine grew the greenest leaves in the center and began growing nicely. 'Crown of Gold', a two year old plant was 8" across because it had been stripped of yellowed leaves so many times before. It is now a blue ribbon winner of 18" across.

The smell of the fish emulsion is terrible — I will never get used to it but the results are startling to me and my violet friends. I started using this same mixture on the leaves I put down and the baby plants are so green now. And only 2 variegated plants in my plant collection have turned green. The rest of the variegated plants have stayed variegated like 'Crown of Gold', 'Top Dollar' and many others.

I cannot say that all of my plants responded to the "fish" treatment but 90 per cent of them did.

I hope that those growers who have yellowing plants will try adding fish emulsion to their regular fertilizer program. Remember, those leaves which are already yellow will not green up but in two months time you should see a marked improvement in your plant's growth and color. I also believe that those growers who have to use hard tap water would benefit by adding fish emulsion.

I never have discovered why those outer leaves yellowed but because of Mrs. Wood's advice I can grow healthy green plants again.

See "Strictly Business" for information on how to order Master Variety List #3.

A NOT-SO-DIRTY BUSINESS

*Christine D. Leppard
806 Aspen Drive
Rochester, MI 48063*

The single most basic supply needed for a hobby of growing African violets or other houseplants is potting soil. Notice the word **soil**, not dirt. Soil is disintegrated rock, vegetation, and animal matter. A good potting soil is dynamic, alive, and constantly working to release the complexly balanced nutrients necessary for a growing plant. Dirt is something else.

There are three main types of soils found in nature: sandy, silt, and clay. The best type of soil for African violets is a light combination of sandy and silt soils. Basic ingredients used to lighten soils include peat moss, perlite or Sponge Rok, vermiculite, and charcoal. In nature the African violet was found growing in humusy pockets of rotted vegetation mixed with disintegrated granite. Thus, the soil was rich with decayed vegetative matter and coarse because of the granite. Excellent drainage was probably its outstanding property rather than high fertility.

The properties of a good potting soil are very few. To provide an adequate plant micro-ecosystem, a potting mix must stabilize the plant in the pot, retain moisture, hold air, provide drainage, and store nutrients in the proper pH balance.

Considering each of these simple requirements in turn, we know that almost any medium will stabilize the plant in the pot. African violets survive in pure sphagnum moss, pure vermiculite, pure sand, pure perlite. They survive, but they do not grow and bloom.

Second, we know that many mixtures will retain moisture, but it is important that the moisture be interspersed throughout the pot. The mix should not be dry on top and soggy near the bottom. This is what happens with pure sand or pure vermiculite, hence the importance of humus, peat moss, or other soil absorbent matter. The best vegetative matter is **compost** - a sanctity in the plant world - because compost feeds bacteria, some 200 different types, which work on the soil to release the chemical elements necessary for plant growth. Peat moss also holds water, but as a sponge rather than by surface tension as compost does. Surface tension is to be preferred over absorption of water in a growing medium as the water is more easily absorbed by the roots.

There are three types of peat: sediment, fibrous, and woody. Only a fibrous to woody grade of peat is good. Other peats are too decayed, black, and very acid. So, if possible, start with compost, humus, or leaf mold. Peat moss is really a substitute for these other ingredients, and it takes months for the

bacteria in the pot to turn peat moss into humus.

Third, potting soil should hold air in the area of the plant's root system. If this does not occur, the roots waterlog and suffocate themselves. Therefore, we use perlite, charcoal, vermiculite, and chicken grits or aquarium sand (nonabsorbent materials) to break up the soil. Propolite (ground plastic foam) is an artificial soil lightener.

Then, while the soil holds air and moisture for the plant, it also will provide proper drainage. The water should stay in the pot long enough for the roots to use it, but it should not sog down and turn sour, inviting rhizoctonia or root and crown rot.

Last, and indeed most important, the soil stores and provides chemical nutrients necessary for photosynthesis, the development of chlorophyll. If the pH (relation of acid to alkalinity expressed in a logarithmic percentage) is too high or too low, the nutrients — particularly nitrogen — will be chemically tied up in the soil and unavailable to the plant. African violets like other green, flowering plants, need nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium in fairly large amounts plus perhaps two dozen or so trace elements. If the pH is too low, in the 4 or 5 range, the soil is acidic. When this occurs, it will not matter how much fertilizer is added. If the pH is too low, the plant cannot use the available nitrogen. Instead of stimulating healthy growth, the fertilizer burns the plant's roots and will eventually kill it.

In the northeast and other parts of the country, acidity is a general problem. It is compounded by using potting soils which contain large amounts of peat moss and by forgetting to correct the pH. A safe, easy correction is a solution of 1 teaspoon to 1 gallon of warm water of Epsom Salts (magnesium sulfate). Water the plant thoroughly with the solution once a month. This will raise the pH almost a full value. It is also advisable to use some slower acting lime in the soil mix. Magnesium sulfate also allows the phosphorous, which is essential for the formation of chlorophyll, to become available. It is magnesium shortage, not a phosphorous shortage, which stops plants from thriving. Magnesium stimulates beneficial soil bacteria and improves the plant's resistance to disease because it works with calcium (from bone meal) to form strong cells. It controls the acid while brightening the colors of both foliage and blossoms. Sulphur is another trace element provided by epsom salts. Keeping the pH level high is also important to prevent excess fluoride buildup

(sometimes a result of using poor grade perlite). This buildup will turn the margins of leaves brown and the apex mushy.

It is important, too, to remember that when transplanting plants, the grower should always moisten the soil mix as dry ingredients will draw water out of the tiny hair roots and send the plants into shock.

The recipes which follow are generally rich, and unless stated, no fertilizer should be used on a newly potted plant for about one month. The exception is the GBS Soilless Mixture which provides no nutrients for the plant, but which is convenient to make. These recipes have been reduced so that apartment dwellers can conveniently make and store them. Remember that all humus, peat moss, compost, leaf mold, garden loam, gravel - anything which comes directly into the home from the out-of-doors - must be sterilized. Dampen the medium, cover it with aluminum foil, and bake at 250 degrees for two hours.

The first mix was developed by Michael Kartuz for gesneriads, begonias, and Saintpaulias.

GBS Mixture

- 4 qts. shredded peat moss (sterilize)
- 4 qts. vermiculite
- 4 qts. perlite
- 3 Tbs. lime

Note: this mixture requires constant feeding.

The next mixture is a popular recipe used by many major growers with excellent results.

Northeast Mix #1

8 cups **sterile** soil (Baccto AV Soil, Jungle Growth, Black Magic)

4 cups milled sphagnum moss (sterilize) (Not Canadian or Michigan peat)

4 cups vermiculite

4 cups perlite

1-½ cups horticultural charcoal (purchase at tropical fish or poultry store)

¼ cup whiting (purchase at hardware store) (or use dolomite lime)

¼ cup superphosphate (purchase at plant supply store)

5 cups Propalite (Tufflite Plastics, Inc., Ballston Spa, NY)

The next mixture is the one which I use for rerooting, seeds, and leafsets.

Leppard Rooting Mixture

- 2 parts vermiculite
- 2 parts **perlite**

2 parts milled sphagnum moss (Not Canadian or Michigan peat)

1 part charcoal

I moisten this mixture with a solution of ¼ teaspoon fertilizer to 1 gallon warm water, then plant the leaf or sucker. Thereafter, I use only plain water until the mouse-ear leaves are showing.

The last mixture is the one which I prefer for mature show plants and which has given me consistent results. It provides all five requirements of a good potting soil, is easy to mix in a clean plastic bag, and stores indefinitely in a plastic garbage can.

Leppard Mix for Mature Plants

3 qts. leaf mold, humus, or compost (I use screened compost)

3 qts. Jungle Growth, Baccto AV Soil, or Black Magic soil or use screened, milled sphagnum peat-moss.

1 qt. chicken grit or aquarium gravel - not fine sand.

The above three are oven-sterilized before mixing. Then add:

5 qts. perlite

4 qts. vermiculite

1 qt. charcoal (aquarium or orchid charcoal)

1 cup ground bone meal

½ cup dolomite lime or whiting

Note: this makes about 5 gallons of soil mix.

These procedures may sound complicated, but they are satisfying in that you can see the results of your work in improved plants. Also, the cost of preparing your own potting mix is about one-third that of purchasing commercial mixtures or bases, and you are sure of adequate sterilizing. To me there is no comparison in the results achieved. The more natural mixes, combined with a diverse feeding program where the grower changes brands of fertilizer with each watering, will produce show plants as nice as any ever grown.

Potting soil is fun to make too. It can be a little bit messy so premoisten everything to cut dust. The aroma of sterilizing compost and peat may be unusual at first, but it is one that grows on you. Handling the soil is never muddy or dirty since no real "dirt" is used. Potting soil becomes a friable, soft mixture pleasing to run the hand through. You will become familiar with the feel of a good soil as you experiment. Keep records of what you are doing, test a new mix on only two or three plants. Never, **but never**, do something new to all of your plants at one time. For example, the use of epsom salts is a procedure I swear by, but one unfortunate acquaintance

must have used the wrong strength, the wrong chemical, or something because the results were disastrous. The same has happened many times with insecticides. Anything new is to be tried carefully, the results weighed, corrected, and then either adopted or abandoned.

So, push up your sleeves, get out the plastic bags and buckets, and have fun making some potting soil. It's not a dirty business at all!

Note: I am not able to assist in obtaining ingredients — sorry.

SLIDES TAKEN OF WESTERN HYBRIDS

*Harriette Poss
12 Kelton Court
San Mateo, CA 94403*

As vice president of the Northern Council of AVS, I wondered what kind of a program I could present that was both informative and entertaining, as well as different from what has been done over and over again. The thought occurred to me that our California Council gives an award for the Best Western Introduction at each show but there are few entries. Perhaps this was because members are not too well acquainted with which ones are Western varieties.

Slide programs are always popular so I decided to take slides of as many Western varieties as I could and present them as the program. Then another thought occurred to me. We are in the process of raising money for our 1981 AVSA Convention in San Francisco. Why not make the slide program available to all clubs for a fee, which would also justify the time and expense?

I wanted to get as much coverage as I could on our Western varieties so I asked Pauline Bartholomew to work with me. Now both of us are attempting to get slides of Western varieties in both Northern and Southern California. I have also asked growers to keep me informed of any new introductions they may have.

When we finish we will sort out the best slides showing both the plant and a closeup of the blossom. So far we have come up with about 50 varieties.

Included in the program, where possible, will be the registration number, the background and the history of each plant. It is turning into quite a fascinating project for me. I plan to have the program available by January 1979. The fee will be \$5 for the use of the slides. Hopefully, the clubs will feel this is a pleasant way to contribute toward the success of the 1981 convention, in addition to being informed and entertained at the same time.

NEW DIMENSIONS IN AFRICAN VIOLETS

*Mrs. Sidney Bogin
39 Boyd St.
Long Beach, NY 11561*

Trailers have added a new dimension to the growing of African violets. Just as the miniatures have charmed so many people who do not have room for the standards, the trailers have found a niche in many a home with limited space. Trailers grow very well in natural light as well as under fluorescents and can be hung any place you have light and can put up a hook. Table space and window sills are not needed.

Their basic care is the same as for standards or miniatures. The same soil, fertilizing, humidity etc. applies. They should be in a pot or basket proportionate to their size. They must have only one main stem and not less than three extra crowns. Pinching out the two center leaves from each crown promotes the growth of extra crowns and helps the trailer fill the pot. The exceptions are the tiny miniatures like, 'Tiny Pink Bells' and 'Tiny Blue Bells'. They do not have to be pinched as they grow extra crowns in profusion.

Some trailers will only grow down one side of the pot but can look good if kept well groomed. Most trailers will look good if they hang evenly around the pot on all sides. The plants should be turned often to ensure bloom from each crown.

Miniatures like 'Pixie Blue' and 'Pique Pixie' are not genetically stable and will sometimes sport very large leaved crowns. They can be shown but the size of the crowns and leaves should be consistent. If you have a small leaved plant cut or pinch off any large crown that occurs and similarly, remove any small crown on a large leaved plant.

Trailers can decorate your home in countless fashions. The larger standards and semiminiatures look magnificent in hanging baskets. The tiny miniatures can thrive in strawberry jars, tea cups or ceramic containers. I have some beautiful doll head planters that sport bonnets with profuse bloom.

CONVENTION DATES

1979 - June 6 - 10, Denver, CO. Regency Hotel.
1980 - April 15-19, New Orleans, LA. Grand Hotel.
1981 - April 21-25, San Francisco, CA. Holiday Golden Gateway.
1982 - April 21-24, Syracuse, NY. Syracuse Hotel.
1983 - April 19-23, Milwaukee, WI. Phister Hotel.

Granger Gardens, USA!

Originally a Vegetable Operation, Greenhouses Converted to Violets

*Dori Macomber
824 Sheridan Avenue
Chico, CA 95926*

As any African violet enthusiast knows, you CAN'T go to Ohio without visiting the fabulous Granger Gardens! And although Easter was "cancelled" because of ice storms and hazardous road conditions, my husband, Mac, and I ventured out with a borrowed car and a road map of Ohio with a prayer for good road conditions.

Our first day of decent weather began the day we were to leave for Medina, Ohio. The countryside was still brown from the worst Ohio winter in years . . . (All winter our daughter, Kathy, was remarking, "What's a nice California girl doing here?" while she shoveled out!)

As we approached the Medina area, and turned off toward Sharon Center, six miles south of where the greenhouses are located, you could see how beautiful the countryside would be in a few short weeks. It is rolling hills and orchard country, a beautiful area.

As we drove into Sharon Center, we stopped at the General Store (which is another story) where they called for us to tell them at Granger's that we were on our way. We had called from Kathy's house to see if we could go through the greenhouses, because, as most of you probably know, Granger's is strictly a wholesale outlet with violets going all over the country. Their only sales are by complete lots, with the quantities varying according to your selections. Retail sales are made at the greenhouses only.

(There were a few minutes there in the General Store when I almost lost Mac. He was considering browsing there while I was busy with my violets. On another trip, we plan to spend more time in the Sharon Center General Store. They had EVERYTHING, and you could spend a couple of hours there without being bored.)

Granger Gardens was established by Hugh Eyerdome and his son, Dale, in 1948 and was named for Granger Township. They get many calls and letters addressed to "Mr. Granger" — so many, that it has become almost an alias.

As we drive onto the grounds, you are greeted by the sight of a lovely two-story, traditionally beautiful midwestern home on a beautiful lawn. What appears to be the beginning of the long procession of greenhouses serves as the entry to the

greenhouses and is directly behind the home. The other greenhouses, now totalling 12, continue down a country hillside. When you take a look at all those violets and all those greenhouses, you have to think, "This HAS to be the largest hybridizing operation of African violets in the world."

The greenhouses are situated on a 50-acre farm and was originally a vegetable operation. When African violets proved to be such a successful venture, the Eyerdoms gradually converted their entire efforts to their propagation.

Our very charming host for the tour was Jim Eyerdome, and he couldn't have been more helpful. Don't expect to go there and find all the Granger Gardens varieties ever hybridized. Jim told us that, normally, they carry only about 75 of their newest and top-demand varieties. While we were there, they were busy every minute getting plants repotted and packed up for shipping. He said they were shipping every day. They have repotting stations in every greenhouse and, as you might guess, every spare minute is spent at a station. They don't waste a minute, and I felt really privileged that Jim took the time to spend with us. They really are incredibly fast, and at the same time they are repotting, they are keeping an eagle eye on the temperature, the humidity, the watering, etc.

Although they have an automatic control on an injector utilized in fertilization, there is much manual control in ventilation and watering and during peak seasons of shipping will employ as many as eight full-time employees.

The soil mixture used at Granger Gardens is quite sandy — 25% sand, 25% clay topsoil, and 50% muck, as they call it, a black organic soil from an old lake bed behind the greenhouse. Since this soil mixture is readily available and works well with their growing conditions, they are using it extensively in the greenhouses. Their soil dries out much more quickly than under other heating and growing conditions. They heat with steam and find that the soilless mixes didn't work well in their environment. However, Jim cautions that his recommendation is to "experiment with different soil mixes to find the one which works best with the area's climate, humidity,

and growing conditions."

He also cautions against the practice of using cow manure, and similar fertilizers in the soil mixes. In overdoing it, burning off of the plant occurs, and he feels that the use of powerful ingredients of this kind lead to many problems. He says violets are not strong enough to withstand strong fertilization to force their growth.

In feeding, they do not use a rotation of different fertilizers as many growers are doing. They constant feed with Peters 15-30-15 with their automatic injector with this feeding cut down in midsummer when the heat promotes heavy foliar growth. Generally, they are feeding the large plants the same as the small

ones. The water is cut down in summer, also, because of their high humidity.

Jim Eyerdom's parting words were, "What is mentioned here is what is effective under our conditions," and warns that in different parts of the country, entirely different cultural methods would be effective. He repeated his earlier advice that a grower must experiment to find the most effective cultural methods of his own climatic conditions.

A thoroughly enjoyable morning with "what has to be one of the largest African violet hybridizers in the world," with the haunting memory of a nice lady in a country store saying, "Who would have thought it would have lasted so long!"

My Unwelcome Violet Visitor

Joan Halford

*Union Farm, P. O. Pyramid 0120
Transvaal, Republic of South Africa*

This is a true story.

Walking up two steps into my greenhouse, the open door squeaked. It moved towards me. A few minutes before this, I had used my spray pump behind this door, and had noticed nothing unusual. Silently it came out, inches from my feet. It was in no hurry to escape.

IT WAS A FOUR FOOT EGYPTIAN COBRA!

With winter fast approaching, it must have been searching for a warm, cozy place. What better than in bags of soft warm vermiculite, and bags of fluffy peat. Ugh! I shuddered when I recalled that that same morning I had delved deep down into a open bag of vermiculite with my bare hands! This all flashed through my mind.

I followed the Cobra slowly close on its tail. Then I half turned my head, called "SNAKE", and in a split second it had vanished. Did it disappear through the open door ahead into my leaf room, or was it still in the greenhouse room with me - just out of sight amongst my plants? Not knowing was most unnerving. That night I locked my room, feeling very despondent and very, very unhappy.

The following day, I settled down at the telephone and contacted the local Pretoria Zoo, two snake parks, several nurseries, and sought assistance from all and sundry. Fumigating to kill the snake would possibly kill all my violets. A snake expert called in during my dilemma to give me advice could only console me by telling me that I had truly turned my violet greenhouse into the best SNAKE park ever: water in ponds, tree stumps and above all warmth.

He had never seen better.

There seemed no easy way out, so I unpacked my entire room of some 1,000 plants. I just had to find this TERRORIST! We unpacked the entire room. It took all day searching slowly and carefully and believe it or not found nothing at all — not even in my adjoining leaf room. I truly did not relish the idea of coming across this deadly visitor unawares. A shudder would go through me, as I thought of how often and how near I must have been to my silent visitor. How he must have wiggled when I sprayed with hot water and Kelthane! Obviously he knew my voice. He had been an inmate for sometime. He had moved so slowly—the vibrations of my quickening footsteps had sent him swiftly off. I felt better when the search was over in spite of not finding him.

Two days later my husband nearly stepped on an Egyptian Cobra near the carport, lying basking in the sun. Was this my visitor—or its mate?

With winter frost, maybe I'll have to be content that this cobra intends staying around. My violet room is his obvious choice to hibernate, so I am keeping a careful watch. Visitors like this one, I can assure you, are not very welcome in "Joan's American Violet House" or maybe I should rename it "Joan's Snake House"!!

If you have articles, pictures or slides to be printed in the Magazine, send them to the Editor, NOT to the Knoxville office!

Constructing a Violet Stand

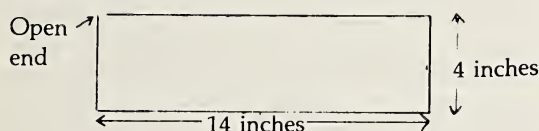
Mrs. D. E. (Shirlee) Sands
101 India Road
Opelika, AL 36801

Have you ever viewed a violet show and admired the beautiful plants as they sat on their stands; then wondered how the stands were made. I hope to explain this procedure in six simple steps.

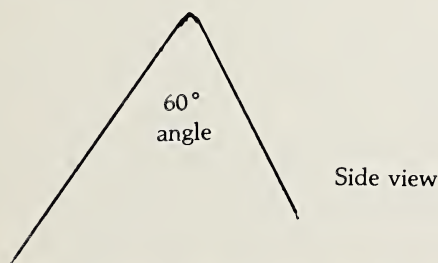
The stands are easy to construct and relatively inexpensive. To make one stand you will need two 36 inch lengths of 1/8 inch diameter brazing rods (a type of welding rod). This can be purchased at any local welding supply house. Brazing rods are sold by the pound. There are eight rods to the pound, and one pound of rods costs \$2.19. This will make six stands at an approximate cost of 36¢ per stand. Any left over portions of the rods will be used in the actual welding of the stand.

Now for the directions:

1) Take a 36 inch rod. Make three bends to form a 4 inch by 24 inch rectangle. Do not weld the open corner at this time.



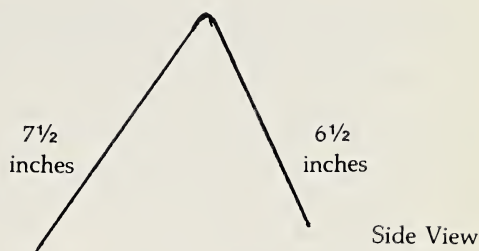
2) 6½ inches from one corner on the 14 inch side, bend to a 60° angle. Bend the other 14 inch side to match.



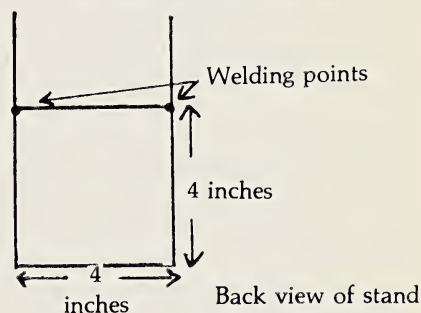
3) Next, cut a 4 inch piece and a 5 inch piece. Bend the 5 inch piece in the middle to form a rounded 90° angle.



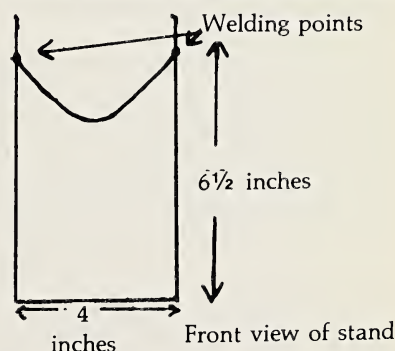
4) Set the stand upright (like a tent) to give the appearance of an A frame. Weld the open corner from Step 1 closed.



Note one side is approximately one inch shorter
5) Measure 4 inches from the bottom of the short sides. Weld the 4 inch piece to join short sides.



6) Measure 6½ inches from the bottom of long sides. Weld the 5 inch rounded V shaped piece to join long sides.



The bottom of your pot will rest against the 4 inch straight piece, and the top of the pot will rest against the V shaped piece. This will allow you to look straight into the crown of the plant. The plant is displayed in a more pleasing manner, and it is easier for a judge to view.

I hope my instructions are clear. If any one has any questions concerning the construction of the stands, please let me know. I will be happy to answer your questions.

"POSING YOUR POSIES"

Frank A. Burton
P. O. Box 575
Old Saybrook, CT 08475

Most of you are flower lovers or lovers of flowers or you wouldn't be reading this article. Most of you grow African violets for fun. Surely in some point of time you will produce a show-stopper, a record of whose beauty you will want to preserve, or it may be in your travels, you will see exotic plants whose images you would like to bring back to others. Whatever the reason, sooner or later many flower people are bitten by the picture bug.

This happened to many of you long ago and you are old and wise at the taking of flower pictures. Others feel stymied because they have tried a few times and didn't obtain pictures that suited them.

Picture-making like flower-growing is a large subject and if you know anything about photography, the most I can do is to inspire you to start taking pictures, to take lots of pictures, to keep records of how you take them and to read, study and experiment.

It cannot be emphasized too strongly that the only way to become a good photographer is to take pictures, take pictures and take pictures. Besides taking the pictures you must record what you see, do, what was the subject, the lighting, the film, the exposure, etc. Then compare your results with your records and soon you will be planning how you want the final picture to look and will plan your technique to produce that preconceived picture.

To begin use whatever camera you have. As you progress, you will eventually want a camera that has interchangeable lenses and is a single lens reflex. This makes it possible to focus closely at short distance with the image clearly seen in the actual size it will be on the film. The better ones have all sorts of useful accessories available, such as bellows extensions, closeup lenses, etc., and their meters figure the exposure through the lens. The other important item you will need is a good film tripod. This lets you compose your picture, allows for longer exposures needed for poor light situations and tightly stopped down lenses.

Right before you all get too upset, let me say that if you only want a few slides from a flower show and the ones you have been taking satisfy you, then just keep on doing what you are doing. For those who want to dig a little deeper, here we go:

We are going to talk about color pictures as very few take black and white pictures today. These can be transparencies, generally in the form of slides. These are positive images and we view them by

transmitted light or light which passes through them.

Color prints are made from a negative image which is recorded on color negative film. Actually we can get prints from slides and slides from a color negative film but normally we will use the film for the type we want directly. Be sure to buy slide films for slides and negative film for color prints.

Let's look at a piece of color film for a moment to see what it is and how it works. Usually it is a piece of transparent film coated with three light sensitive coatings and measured in millionths of an inch in thickness and placed one on top of the other. Light passing through the lens strikes the film and each layer is sensitized by a light of a different color — one yellow — one magenta and one cyan.

Since these layers react differently at varying speeds, we must be aware of a reciprocity factor which occurs when exposure times are too short or too long. Black and white film allows of considerable variation in exposure since its single layer emulsion can be manipulated rather widely in the dark room. Color prints can be helped a little in the dark room but slides are actually the film which you took the picture on. They cannot be improved upon in the dark room. You must have things right when you push that shutter release button.

Going back to the color film and its three layers, you remember that each layer responds to a certain color, one layer to magenta, one layer to cyan, and one layer to yellow. Don't let the names of these colors bother you. They combine to give a complete time-color picture. By separating the color transparency into images containing only that part of the picture which is made by one color, our printers make separate plates for each color and use matching inks to give us color pictures in the magazine.

Remembering your high school science classes, you will recall that white light is actually composed of light waves of the entire visible spectrum of color; but while it may look the same to our eye, this so-called white light is highly variable.

This is one of the most important points I want to impress on you. This white light has a constantly changing color. The film must be made to a standard that reproduces a true color when exposed to a standard light. Since we cannot alter the film, we must alter the color of the light to match that required by the film. How? By filter. With the correct filter you are the master of every color situation.

But which filter when? First, we must have some

way of describing what color our white light is and this is done in degrees Kelvin. Most daylight films are made from 5500° Kelvin light. This is the average value of sunlight between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Type B films are balanced for light of 3200° Kelvin.

So as an example: If we find ourselves with Type B film in a daylight situation, we simply put on an 85 B filter or an R-12 if using decamired filters and we get standard color. Without the filter, all our pictures will be blue.

A second example would be daylight film in the camera. It is real early in the morning, the sun just peeking up and you want this strong sidelight to get a round effect on your rosebuds, and the lack of great brightness as to avoid flashy highlights on your shiny leaves but you also want the true yellow and pink color of that bright new bud. You know that light is too red, so you add an 80C filter on B 1½ for decamired. And there you are! You have all the pluses, the strong sidelight for roundness definition, the lack of strong highlights on your leaves, and true color because you have adjusted your Kelvin temperature to match that of your film. You also have the freshness of the morning flower, possibly a few dew drops and a wisp of a spider web.

Speaking of dew drops, you can always create a few with a Windex spray filled with water.

Just a few more points on light color. Do not mix light sources. For example, 3200K studio lights and sunlight; avoid fluorescent lights whenever possible; avoid bouncing light from colored walls, ceilings, or objects in your picture. The bounced light will have a far different Kelvin temperature than the original source and the result: an off-color picture.

If the only chance you have to get pictures at flower shows is with the plants on the benches with an assortment of light sources, a little daylight from a window, a few ceiling lights, etc., then the choice would be flashlight film with blue flashbulbs or electronic flash. Both will blend with the daylight and usually override the dim artificial light. If the flash is on the camera, you will tend to get flat pictures. Removing it and placing it at an angle to your camera will give you some modeling. It also allows you to move in close with the camera and still keep your light back far enough so as not to wash out the picture. Remember the distance you work out from your guide numbers is light to subject—not camera to subject.

So if at your smallest aperture and highest speed you still must be six feet from the plant, but you want to be only one foot, put the light at six feet and the camera at one foot for correct exposure. This system of camera and flash will give you pretty good pictures, fine for a slide record or to show the folks back home. But rarely are they good enough to be

reproduced photomechanically or in other words printed.

Why? The same old story—light! (1) It is usually too harsh and causes strong highlights and deep shadows. (O.K. for black and white but trouble in color.) (2) Another problem is that you still don't get exact color match. Most daylight films are balanced for 5500° Kelvin which is average sunlight — 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Morning sun is 5000° Kelvin, only 500° cooler but its color difference shows up quickly without a filter. With film at 5500° Kelvin you find that the blue flash bulbs are balanced for 6000° Kelvin and most electronic flashes at 6500°, so you are off 2 D.M. on bulbs and 3 D.M. on electronics. A UV16 filter or R-3DM will help on the color but you will have strong shadows. Bouncing your flash from a white or gray wall or ceiling or a photographic umbrella will greatly soften the harshness. The only bad problem left is correct exposure since you cannot meter flash except with a special, quite expensive, meter. Now, if you work in a studio with fixed conditions, this can be worked out by trial and error and then repeated.

To consistently get pictures that are suitable for photomechanical reproduction you must be able to control the quality, quantity and direction of your lighting. Working under varying conditions from flower show to flower show, to hybridizers' greenhouses, to my own living room, I find that (1) using a room with no other light source (night is good, no windows to cover); (2) using B type film balanced for 3200° K light; (3) using fixed 3200° K lights, mostly bounced from umbrellas, I can get the pictures I want. This system gives a good light because of bouncing which does not harm the flowers. It lets you see and measure the effect of your lights so you may move them about for the best effect; allows precision measurement of light for exact exposure (4) you can spend unlimited time on composition; (5) once you are well set up you have repeatability in rapid sequence.

Why am I stressing light? Because that is really all a picture is. The only thing which enters our eyes to tell us what the plant looks like is light. Whether this light is reflecting directly from the object to the eye or goes through a lens, is trapped in chemicals on film, which in turn are developed into a slide, through which light is passed to change them into separations through which light is passed to make them into plates, which, with ink on paper, make a picture which is invisible in darkness. It can only be perceived as a picture by our mind by reflecting light from it to our eyes. So you see in every step the picture is really only light. Doesn't it then make sense that light is the most important thing in picture

taking?

O. K. We have talked about quality of light, color of light, direction of light; now, we also must have an exact **quantity** of light reach our film for proper exposure. How do we control this? First, we find out how fast our film is. The manufacturer tells us this is by means of an ASA number which is printed on the box. This can be set on our cameras or light meter to program them correctly.

Now we again come to a standard. What does the light meter look at to get a correct reading? If you take it from a white blossom it will call for less light than if you take it from dark green leaves. A large light background will call for much less light than a dark blue or black one. How can all these variables be resolved into the most correct settings? The answer is the Standard 18% gray card. Place the card where it will receive the same light as the subject and get your reading from the gray card. Now all objects, light or dark, will have the same relationship in the picture as they do before your camera.

If the picture is very important, use this reading for your first shot, then take a second shot with $\frac{1}{2}$ stop less exposure and a third with $\frac{1}{2}$ stop more exposure. This is known as bracketing and is widely used by professionals. You can reduce the need for bracketing by standardizing your film.

All film has a variance from the marked ASA. It has manufacturing tolerance of about 10% to begin with. It changes with age and storage conditions. So the film marked ASA 100 may in reality be ASA 110 or 85. How can you beat this one? Buy your film in quantities to last a year or more and all of one emulsion number. Store it in your deep freezer. Try a test roll to get the most exact setting of ASA and then you are all set for a year. It won't change in your deep freezer. Just take it out the day before to warm up.

Now your meter gives you a number of possible combinations of aperture and shutter speed. Which combination should you use? Does shutter speed or aperture control? If you are hard holding your camera, you should use the speed which is closest to matching the focal length of your lens as a reciprocal. For example, for a 28 mm or 35 mm lens use $\frac{1}{30}$ sec; a 50 or 55 mm use $\frac{1}{60}$ sec. for a 105 mm use $\frac{1}{125}$ th sec., etc. This is to reduce blurred image from camera motion.

Suppose you are taking a closeup with a 55 mm lens and with existing light and $\frac{1}{60}$ sec. you have to have the lens wide open at 3.5 and you have no depth of field. But you want to see into the bottom of that gloxinia bloom as well as the rim of the petals and you want it all sharp. You find you must close that aperture to F16 to achieve the depth of field wanted. The corresponding speed is now $\frac{1}{4}$ second and ob-

viously you had better get that camera on to a tripod. Depth of field (the distance from front to back of your picture which is in sharp focus) can be achieved by using smaller apertures. The greatest depth of field would be a tiny pinhole. Of course, this means using a larger exposure. Sometimes you want to reduce depth of field so as to blur a bad or competing background. Now your aperture needs to be moved to a lower lens opening and your shutter speed needs to be moved up to a higher number.

Enough for these camera techniques. You must learn them and learn them well, but you still will NOT have good pictures unless you compose them well. Flowers growing out of doors in your garden or wild flowers cannot be moved, so the camera has to be moved. A stray flower may be propped up or snipped off, etc., but basically you must find your composition as it exists. Be careful to check the background. Garbage, parked cars, lawn mowers, etc., do not improve the picture. Blue sky from a low angle can make a terrific background. In wild flower pictures, background helps establish habitats and season.

Moving indoors we usually create our own backgrounds with cardboard or fabric. White, gray, or black are best but occasionally color adds the right touch. Fabric should be stored on rollers or stretched on frames to eliminate unsightly wrinkles. The color texture and the distance behind the subject, plus the angle of lighting the background all have an effect on your picture. Light-colored flowers show up best on dark backgrounds and dark ones best against light backgrounds. Keep backgrounds far enough behind subject to avoid a crowded feeling. Shadows on backgrounds can be eliminated by separately lighting them.

If the entire plant or arrangement rests on the same material as the background, it should drape up in a curve so as not to give horizontal lines.

If working on an arrangement or delicate plant, make all your preparations and light checks with plastic flowers or dummies. Bring the real material in and do last minute arranging when all else is ready to avoid any possible wilting or heat damage.

Composing for a beautiful picture is really the most important item and the one most difficult to spell out. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder so make the picture in the view finder please you. Move it around, add, subtract a flower or several, leaves may help, light a dark spot with a reflector. You are taking a horizontal format? Let's look at it vertically. Maybe it will be better.

Is the foreground good? Background? Subject well placed? Lighting o.k.? Are vertical or horizontal lines straight? No dead or wilted blooms? No dirty foliage? Exposure o. k.?

Allright, then. Push the button for a fine picture.

COMMERCIALS

AUSTRALIA

Kenrose & Co., c/o K. A. Badman, 1 Yarrabin Rd., Kenthurst, 2154, NSW

CANADA

Decaluwe African Violets, P. O. Box 145, Lucan, Ont., NOM 2JO
Mr. & Mrs. E. A. Fisher, 32 Downsview Ave., Downsview, Ont., M3M-1C9

Harborcrest Nurseries, 4634 W. Saarich, Victoria, B.C., V8Z-3G8
K. M. Henry, c/o McConnell Nursery Co., Ltd., RR 1, Port Burwell, Ont., NOJ-1T0

Phipps African Violets & Supplies, RR #1, Paris, Ont., N3L-3E1
The Plant Place, P. O. Box 936, New Hamburg, Ont., NOB-2G0
Sanmar's Violetry, c/o Miss Sandra Lex, 70 Enfield Ave., Toronto, Ont., M8W-1T9

The Scott's, 72 51st Ave., Lachine, Que., H8T-2W2
Scott's African Violets, 446 Baseline Rd., E. London, Ont., N6C-2P6

Simpson's African Violets, 6715 Randolph Ave., Burnaby 1, B.C., V5H-3W3

Wood's African Violets, Proton Station, Ont., N0C-1L0

HONG KONG

Cecilia Florist, B-2, Blocks 32-40, Baguio Villa, 550, Victoria Road

KENYA

Ms Bodil Royem, Uneo - P. O. Box 47074, Nairobi

MEXICO

Mrs. Harold Campbell, Reforma #2229 Casa 6, Mexico 10, D.F.

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA

B & M Nursery, P. O. Box 101, Andalusia 36420
Betty Jo's Garden Center, P. O. Box 267, Theodore 36582
Mrs. R. L. Companion, Rt. 6, Box 136, Phenix City 36867

Earth Flowers, 8018 Tea Garden, Huntsville 35802
Judy's Violets, Rt. 1, Box 111, Silverhill 36576
Picken's Plants & Supply, Rt. 6, Box 783, Phenix City 36867
J. B. Rainey's Violetry, Rt. 2, Box 259, Theodore 36582
Stone's Violet Farm, Douglas & Janice Stone, Rt.1, Box 241, Union Grove 35175

World of Violets, 2403 Laverne Dr., Huntsville 35810

ALASKA

Beverly's Violets, 801 N. Bragaw, Anchorage 99504

ARKANSAS

Mrs. Lou A. Corbin, 12040 Southridge Dr., Little Rock 72212
The House of Violets, Ralph and Charlyne Reed, 936 Garland, Camden 71701

Howell's Greenhouse & Garden Center, Rt. 2, Box 296, Magnolia 71753

CALIFORNIA

Delia's Originals, Delia E. Symonds, 2560 Sacramento St., San Francisco 94115

The Green House, Mr. and Mrs. James R. Anderson, 9515 Flower

St., Bellflower 90706

Lee's African Violets, 14246 Nordhoff St., Panorama City 91402
Nature's Workshop, c/o Cheridah Lewis, P. O. Box 584, Tustin 92680

Nurserymen's Exchange, 475 6th St., San Francisco 94103
Petrovffsky Greenhouses, 301 Star Rt., Indian Springs Rd., Rough & Ready 95975

San Francisco Plant Co., Mrs. Robert Flora, 139 Main St., Half Moon Bay 94019

Showcase of Violets, Norma J. Sizemore, 130 Randall Ave., Vacaville 95688

Sunnyside Nurseries, Inc., P. O. Box 4836, Hayward 94540
Wesco, 3811 Noriega, San Francisco 94122

Zorza's African Violets, 1530 Silver Tree Ln., Escondido 92026

COLORADO

Tom Bath, P. O. Box 1966, Ft. Collins 80522

Mrs. R. H. Hayes, Jr., 1931 21st Ave. Ct., Greeley 80631

The Violet Showcase, 3147 S. Broadway, Englewood 80110

CONNECTICUT

Buell's Greenhouses, Inc., Mr. and Mrs. Albert H. Buell, P. O. Box 218, Weeks Rd., Eastford 06242

'Fredette Originals', 972 Grassy Hill Road, Orange 06477

Nancy Hayes, Wintonbury Violet Cellar, 9 Cobblestone Rd., Bloomfield 06002

Heavenly Violets, Mrs. Mary V. Boose, 9 Turney Pl., Trumbull 06611

Powder Hill Violets, Mr. and Mrs. Max Zavisza, 100 Abbe Road, Enfield 06082

Wm. Ponte, 99 Jeffrey Ln., Newington 06111

Violet Nook-kery, c/o Dorothea Wagner, 364 Kelseytown Rd., Clinton 06413

The Violet Room, c/o Mrs. Jean C. Dolan, 168 Thimble Island Rd., Stony Creek 06405

FLORIDA

Cindy's Violetry, P. O. Box 9363, Panama City Beach 32407

Dode's Gardens, c/o Mrs. James B. Whitaker, 1490 Saturn St., Merritt Island 32952

Hickerson Flowers, Inc., Apopka 32703

Island Gesneriads, Anabel C. Spaug, P. O. Box 853, Anna Maria Island 33501

Sandra Leary, 2088 Illinois Ave. NE, St. Petersburg 33703

Penny Makowski, 211 Pennsylvania Ave., Wauchula 33873

Mimi's African Violets, Inc., Box 2967 'F', Deland 32720

Oak Hill Gardens, Inc., Rt. 1, Box 82, Cottontdale 32431

O. F. Nelson & Sons Nursery, Inc., Rt. 1, Box 164, Apopka 32703

The Violet House, c/o D. Maduro & J. D. Rice, P. O. Box 1274, Gainesville 32601

Violets at the Ernst's, 221 S.E. 70th St., Gainesville 32601

GEORGIA

Baker's African Violets, Donald L. Baker, 2433 Kingscliff Dr., NE, Atlanta 30345

W. C. Brooks, 123 Perklewood Cr., Cumming 30130

Cross Hardware Co., P. O. Box 66, Iron City 31759

Lanier Nurseries, Inc., 3500 N. Bogan Rd., Buford 30518

The Little Violet House, Rt. 2, Box 219, Old Waynesboro Rd., Hephzibah 30815

Gerri Mercer, Rt. 1, Box 6, Pine Lake, West Point 31833

Northbrook Nursery, c/o Richard T. Hanlin, 235 Valleywood Dr., Athens 30606

Mrs. L. H. Skaar, 4601 Garrard Ave., Savannah 31405

Violets Atlanta, c/o Janet Whitfield, 2581 Piedmont Rd., N.E., Atlanta 30324

Violets Atlanta, c/o Sue Spann, 2581 Piedmont Rd., N.E., Atlanta 30324

Violets Galore of Georgia, Jim and Jean Wright, 3482 Misty Valley Rd., Decatur 30032

Mrs. Lewis Wigenton, 66 Barber Rd., Marietta 30060

HAWAII

A. I. Sakai Nursery, P. O. Box 415, Wahiawa 96786

ILLINOIS

Benke's Greenhouse, Bilter Rd., Rt. 1, Box 235, Aurora 60504

Dates Violetry, Rt. 1, Box 72-D, Sugar Grove 60554

Hall Industries, Inc., 2323 Commonwealth Ave., North Chicago 60064

Mary-Ray Violets, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Stewart, 5007 Terry Dr., Alton 62002

Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Miderski, 945 Exmoor Ave., Barrington 60010

Pan American Plant Co., Library, 250 Towne Rd., P. O. Box 428, W. Chicago 60185

Rose Knoll Gardens, Mrs. Jeff Rhoades, Assumption 62510

IOWA

The Gingham Outhouse & Pot Shop, Rt. 2, Box 39, Grand Junction 50107

Madame Butterfly, 2166 Broadlawn, Dubuque 52001

INDIANA

Just Plants, P. O. Box 26193, Indianapolis 46226

Maudlin & Cossell's Nursery, 2119 W. Zartman Rd., Kokomo 46901

Virginia L. Whited, 1612 S. Goyer Rd., Kokomo 46901

Wilson Brothers, Roachdale 46172

KANSAS

Imperial Gardens, 220 N. Haslet, Wellington 67152

LOUISIANA

'Alma's Violets', P. O. Box 695, Basile 70515

Country Corners Yard & Garden Center, Box 216-C, Joor Rd., Baton Rouge 70805

Gertrude's Violets, 1214 Common, Lake Charles 70601

Janet's Plant Shop, 1710 Lake Ave., Metairie 70005

Jefferson Ceramic Mold Co., c/o Albert Hartman, P. O. Box 713, Metairie 70004

Mildred Kleinpeter, 12733 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge 70810

H. Thomasson Greenhouses, 1404 Lansdowne, Denham Springs 70726

The Violet Gallery, Mrs. Barbara Trost, 200 Plum St., W. Monroe 71291

Violets, Etc., 703 Behrman Hwy., Gretna 70053

Vincent Greenhouses, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Vincent, Duson 70529

MARYLAND

The Behnke Nurseries, P. O. Box 106, Beltsville 20705

Hartley's African Violets, 315 Webster St., Bel Air 21014

Jane M. Keir, 19216 Drumridge Cir., Gaithersburg 20760

MASSACHUSETTS

Cape Cod Violetry, Mr. and Mrs. John Cook, 28 Minot St., Falmouth 02540

The Hy-Trous Corporation, 3 Green St., Woburn 01915

MICHIGAN

Albert G. Krieger, 1063 Cranbrook, Jackson 49201

Merchants Publishing Co., 20 Mills St., Kalamazoo 49001, Att., John Trelkeld

John's African Violets, Mary E. Hofer, 19788 San Juan, Detroit 48221

MINNESOTA

Lebens Plant Co., 1021 W. Larpenteur Ave., St. Paul 55113
Tonkadale Greenhouses, 3739 Tonkawood Rd., Minnetonka 55343

MISSOURI

Blansit's Greenhouse, Star Rt., Box 61, Ozark 65721

J. David Buttram, P. O. Box 193, Independence 64051

Ronn Nadeau & Linda Small, 48 Queensbrook Pl., St. Louis 63132

MISSISSIPPI

The Plant Hang-Up, 905 Westwood Rd., Natchez 39120

NEBRASKA

The Violet Greenery, 10621 N. 142nd St., Waverly 68462

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Webster's House of Violets, Mrs. Sumner S. Webster, School St., P. O. Box 203, Tilton 03276

'Cellar of Violets', Mrs. Paul Steckowych, 1235 Island Pond Rd., Manchester 03103

NEW JERSEY

Fischer Greenhouseb, Linwood 08221

Hilton Dahlia Farms, Max E. Maas, 870 Mountain Ave., Springfield 07081

Humphrey's African Violets, 46 Glen Ave., E., Harrington Park 07640

Kolb's Greenhouses, Earl & Natalie Kolb, 725 Belvidere Rd., Phillipsburg 08865

Reigning Violets, 492 Lafayette Ave., Passaic 07055

NEW YORK

Annalee Violetry, 29-50 214th Pl., Bayside 11360

Joseph Arth, 9 Banbury Ln., Commack 11725

Casey's African Violets, 218 Beley Ave., Mattydale 13211

Cerri Flowers, Inc., 9528 - Rte 49, Marcy 13403

Champion's African Violets, Mrs. Duane L. Champion, Rt. 2, Clay 13041

Creative Nature Center, c/o Mrs. E. B. Pullar, 411 New Karner Rd., Albany 12205

Mr. Anthony J. Donderwitz, Rt. 1, Massena 13662

Drossos Greenhouses, Rt. 2, Rockefeller Rd., Auburn 13021

Engels African Violet Shop, c/o Carolyn Engels, Box 46, E Palmyra 14444

Everson's House Plants, 4328 S. Salina St., Syracuse 13205

Mr. David K. Feeter, Box 335, Brockport 14420

Gerry & Ethel's African Violets, P. O. Box 15-1, Rt. #1, Wilson Creek Rd., Newark Valley 13811

Caryl Holley, 35 Noble St., Coxsackie 12051

Edward Janosick, Hardscrabble Rd., Roxbury 12474

Juliette's Violets, Rt. 1, Box 347A, Doty Hill Rd., Wellsburg 14894

Lyke's African Violets, Dorothy Lyke, East Bethany 14054

Mr. and Mrs. Lyndon Lyon, 14 Mutchler St., Dolgeville 13329

Mary's House of Violets, 33 Saquoit St., New York Mills 13417

Miller's African Violets, 214 Oakmont Dr., Dewitt 13214

Ridge Greenery, Box 205-B1 Candlewood La., Stone Ridge 12484

Rienhardt's African Violets, 4463 W. Seneca Tpk., Rt. 2, Syracuse 13215

Roberta's African Violets, 3 W Rand St., Ilion 13357

Paul Sorano, 14 Mutchler St., Dolgeville 13329

Ticknor's African Violet's, R. D. 1, Co. Rt. 37, Central Sq. 13036

Yerman's African Violets, 5830 Country Dr., Rt. 1, Box 84B, Verona 13478

NORTH CAROLINA

Carolina Orchids, P. O. Box 217, Simpson 27879

Carolina Violets, P. O. Box 595, Albermarle 28001

Peeler's African Violets, Hidden Lake, Rt. 2, Lawndale 28090

Utopia Greenhouses, Mrs. Jeanne Giannuzzi, P. O. Box 313, U. S. 64, Hayesville 28904

OHIO

Granger Gardens, 1060 Wilbur Road, Medina 44256
Just Violets, 1301 White Oak Rd., Amelia 45102
Albert Kehl, Florist, 4214 Cleveland Ave., N.W., Canton 44709
J. A. Peterson Sons, 3132 McHenry Ave., Westwood, Cincinnati 45211
Swaney's Glass Gardens, 3260 Parmly Rd., Perry 44081
Tube Craft, Inc., 1311 W. 80th St., Cleveland 44102
The Violet Window, Helen and Ed Barr, 896 Terra Alta, N.E., Warren 44483

OKLAHOMA

Cooper's Greenhouse, c/o Wilma Cooper, 1530 SW 56th St., Oklahoma City 73119
Hightower's Violet Nook, Geo. & Darlene Hightower, 2710 S. 96th E. Place, Tulsa 74129
Pat's Violet House, 4740 E 54th St., Apt. 147, Tulsa 74135
Plant Parenthood, 1307 W. Xyler St., Tulsa 74127
Sim's African Violets, 1308 S. Sandusky, Tulsa 74112
Rhonda's Violets & Things, 1413 Denson Dr., Pauls Valley 73075

OREGON

Elf Nursery, Rt. 4, Box 466, Coos Bay 97420
Reva's Violet Room, 92152 Cobury Rd., Eugene 97401

PENNSYLVANIA

Denison's Green Houses, Sproul & Beatty Roads, Springfield 19064
Hi Hill Gardens, Rd. 3, Box 3558, Etters, 'York Co' 17319
Tinari Greenhouses, 2325 Valley Road, Huntingdon Valley 19006

SOUTH CAROLINA

Christine's Flowerland, Christine M. Diggs, 118 Lexington Ave., P. O. Box 626, Lake City 29560
Mrs. E. W. Holman, 1310 Sewanee Ave., Florence 29501

TENNESSEE

Mrs. Malcomb S. Cone, Jr., P. O. Box 38392, Memphis 38138
H. Holtkamp Greenhouses, Inc., 1435 Lischev Ave., Nashville 37207
The Parson's African Violets, Rev. & Mrs. Chas. W. Blades, 3917 Island Home Pike, Knoxville 37920

TEXAS

The African Violetry, 926 E. 14th, Houston 77009
African Violets Galore, 7909 Ridgeview, Houston 77055
Mrs. Wayne Alexander, Rt. 3, Box 47, Decatur 76234
Mrs. Leland Barnes, 3114 W. Michigan, Midland 79701
Boswell & Barnard, 1605 Greenville Ave., Dallas 75206
C & J African Violets, Rt. 2, Box 378, Quitman 75783
Carol's Violets, 9817 Deer Trail, Houston 77038
Jodi Davis, 2818 Rio Grande, Austin 78705
Dee's Violets, 2010 Gessner, Houston 77080
Dos De La Tierra, Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Johnson, 110 James St., Refugio 78377
Julia W. Elliott, Artist, Painter of Violets, 1801 Sunset View, Austin 78704
Gundy Garden Center, 1226 E. Mulberry, Angleton 77515
Hortense's African Violets, 12406 Alexandria, San Antonio 78233
Kridler Nursery, Rt. 3, Box 244, Mt. Pleasant 75455
Ms Fanelle Lansford, 304 Bell Ave., Crockett 75835
Annie Laurie, Mrs. A. T. Culbertson, 805 Mariner 'Lakeway', Austin 78734
Lenore's Plants & Gifts, 10422 Vinemont St., Dallas 75218
Lillie's & Sherry's Plants & Pottery, 6445 Blanco Rd., San Antonio 78216
Louise's Greenhouse, c/o Mrs. A. A. Pitts, P. O. Box 767, Sour

Lake 77650

The Love of Green Violetry, Diane Grigsby, 2310 E. Erwin, Tyler 75702
M & S Greenhouse, c/o Shirley Reber, Rt. 3, Box 605, Marshall 75670
P.S. . . . African Violets, 14421-B Brookhollow, San Antonio 78232
Pam's African Violets, 9531 Spring Dawn, San Antonio 78217
Pat-s African Violets, 4536 Travis St., Dallas 75205
The Plant Hang Out, Hwy. 78, Rt. 1, Box 627, Wylie 75098
Sheri's Green House, Sheri DeLoach, 428 Lindenwood Lan. Hewitt 76643
Susan's Violets, 10339 Ferguson Rd., Dallas 75228
Swifts', P. O. Box 28012, Dallas 75228
Tingle's African Violets, P. O. Box 1627, Cleveland 77327
Mr. Howard Utz, 10017 Sahara, San Antonio 78216
Violet Fantasia, Dr. A & Rita Zukerman, 15414 Heimer Rd., San Antonio 78232
The Violet Patch, 17-A Woodlake Sq., Houston 77063
The Violet Shop, 8114 Langdon Ln., Houston 77036
Volkmann Bros. Greenhouse, 2714 Minert St., Dallas 75219
Wilma Walker, 222 Gober, Houston 77017

UTAH

Bonneville Nursery, Burton S. Johnson, 1118 W. 450th N., Provo 84601
Les Belles Fluers, 2402 Taylor Ave., Ogden 84401

VIRGINIA

Crestwood Violetry, 7314 Jervis St., Springfield 22151

WASHINGTON

Esther Butler, 10052 136th Ave., NE, Kirkland 98033
Klinkel's African Violets, 1553 Harding St., Enumclaw 98022
Col. & Mrs. T. A. Rathje, 4638 36th Ave., W., Seattle 98199

WISCONSIN

African Violets, Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Alf, 4021 Anther Dr., Rt. 2, Beloit 53511
Mrs. Roy Bartel, 6409 W. Wilbur Ave., Milwaukee 53220
Mrs. Donald Holzem, Rt. 3, Box 223, Wausau 54401
Krogman's Violetry, Mr. and Mrs. William J. Krogman, 1325 Parkway Dr., Brookfield 53005
L. B.'s African Violets, 755 S Brandy Brook Rd., Wales 53183
Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Mengsol, 5616 W. Cairdel Ln., Mequon 53092
Rice's Violetry, 1334 Lang Rd., Oconomowoc 53066
Pat Robinson Plants, 1641 Bruce Lane, Green Bay 54303
Scudder's Violetry, 1929 Walton Lane, Rt. 5, Box 372, Beloit 53511
The Shy Violet, 330 Main, Box 218, Menomonie 54751
Violets Galore - At the Gorals, 132 Joan Ave., Green Bay 54302
Lawrence P. Wangsness, 410 Pawling St., Madison 53704

SEPARATING PLANTLETS

When separating plantlets it is wise to remove the plant from the pot, examine it to determine how many plants can be safely pulled apart to be placed in individual pots. Aim to have each section come apart with some of the fibrous root system attached so that the shock of transplanting into new soil will be at a minimum. Choose a pot that is in proportion to the plant and use soil that is pasteurized and drains properly. Also one that is porous enough to permit proper air circulation to maintain continuous growth.

BEGINNER'S COLUMN

Mrs. J.A.W. (Ann) Richardson
RR #1, Box 70
Tavares, FL 32778



HOW TO CHOOSE PLANTS

With all the varieties on the market—how do you know what plants to choose for most satisfaction?

1. Have a look at the Best Varieties Honor Roll of African violets in the November issue of the *African Violet Magazine*. This is a list of plants that have done well for the members giving the number of votes each received.

2. Ask friends which varieties are their favorites and why. See them in bloom.

3. If miniatures or semiminiatures interest you, read "Musings from the Mini-Mam" by Mrs. Sidney Bogin in each issue of our magazine. She will tell you which ones do best for her and what's new.

4. Look at the photographs in the magazine. Sometimes new plants are not immediately available but if one particularly interests you, keep a note of it and wait. Meanwhile, note if it appears on the Best Varieties Honor Roll.

5. Look at the ads of the growers who advertise. Visit a grower if possible.

6. See if your choice appears on the Registration List. A plant may not be registered until it has held true for three generations. In the Master Variety List all registered varieties are indicated by an asterisk. The registration number, date, hybridizer and description are also listed. There are exceptions of course, but usually you can't go wrong with a

registered variety.

7. Stay away from unnamed varieties.

8. If possible, see an African violet show and make a note of the varieties you like. Do go to a convention show if at all possible. Not only will you see some of the best grown plants in the country but many of the best commercial growers are there with plants to sell.

Educational Exhibit

An original and informative educational exhibit was held at the annual show of the AVS of San Francisco, CA. Brock Brown, chairman, with his co-chairman, Byron Aarstad, covered 16 feet of wall space with huge posters that were reproduction blow-ups of pages from the Helen Van Pelt Wilson's 'African Violet Book', covering methods of propagation, repotting, also pest and disease control, arranged in pyramid formation. He also paid tribute to Western Hybridizers by showing their introductions on varying height wicker cylinders placed under the posters. Plants shown were 'Maria Androlina' and 'Nob Hill' by Gary Beck, 'Spring' and 'Little David' by Alice Black, 'Royal Hawaiian' by Edna Rosenthal, and 'California Giant' by the late Victor Constantinov.

ANOTHER

By Letha I DeFries

Just one violet . . . isn't it pretty . . . compliments come, also envy . . . the color is red . . . like a strawberry . . . just one more violet . . . the leaf is shiny . . . two on the shelf . . . that will be plenty . . . colors of the rainbow . . . and like the blueberry . . . just one more violet . . . that's not many . . . please, dear, I have the money . . . this one is double . . . and color of cherry . . . just one more violet . . . isn't it cheery . . . colors of the sky . . . and colors of the sea . . . this one is the best . . . I truly believe . . . just one more violet . . . it's a sweetie . . . ruffled on the edge . . . and white as a bunny . . . come on, now dear, don't be a meanie . . . I've heard this all before . . . isn't it funny . . . a green thumb person . . . is really a honey . . . I'd better hurry now . . . or I won't have a hubby . . . bye, now, I'll see you next month.





INDIAN SUMMER arrangement by Mrs. Allen Bump, Columbus, Ohio

CROSS YOUR I's . . . and DOT YOUR T's . . .

Mrs. W. F. Anderson
360 Tulip Drive
St. Louis, MO 63119

How do you pronounce the species names? Pronouncing *Saintpaulia* (Saynt-PAWL-ee-ah) is easy for everyone. This genus name was given to honor Baron Walter von Saint Paul who collected the first plants in East Africa in what was then Tanganyika Territory, now Tanzania (Tan-suh-NEE-a) and sent them to his father in Germany in 1892.

Although there is a specific plan for the classification and naming of plants, at times a common name is substituted in a local area much as a nickname is given to a person. This leads to confusion. "African violet" is used in America while "Usambara violet" is used in Europe. These common names, or nicknames, for *Saintpaulia* refer to the geographic location where the plants were discovered growing wild. The *Saintpaulia* is not related to a violet which belongs to the genus *Viola*. Any botanist, regardless of country or language, would identify the plant if its generic name, *Saintpaulia*, is used but the common names are not uniformly recognized.

In the binomial plant classification system every plant has two names. The genus name serves a plant as a surname serves a person. The genus (plural -genera) is a subdivision of a plant family. The second name serves a plant as a given name serves a person. It is specific, or the species name.

Nearly all genus and species names are given in Latin or in Latin form since Latin was a universal language when the Swedish botanist, Linnaeus, established the classification system for naming plants about 200 years ago.

In plant classification a genus is subdivided into species. There may be as few as one or many species under each genus. To date 20 *Saintpaulia* species have been described and three of these have further subdivisions or variety classifications. A variety has minor differences but is so similar that it does not rate a separate species classification.

There is nothing difficult about botanical names. They are merely words in another language which become easier to remember when their meaning is known. Some *Saintpaulia* species names give a clue regarding the plant's color, size, shape, or habit of growth; others honor the collector; and some indicate the native habitat where the plant was collected.

If the *Saintpaulia* species names are unfamiliar and

seem to be jawbreakers, try using the phonetic spelling and become familiar with the meaning of the descriptive names. In the accompanying list the stressed syllable is printed in capital letters. The other syllables are strung together with a phonetic - foh NET ic - pronunciation suggested followed by the meaning of the names.

Plant dictionaries are available but authorities are not in unanimous agreement on pronunciation. The list given can be a guideline until you do your own research and find an authority you wish to accept.

After the genus name *Saintpaulia* is written out when first used, further references may be made by using the abbreviation *S.* These are the *Saintpaulia* species and varieties:

S. brevopilosa - brev i pill OH sa - with short hairs

S. confusa - kon FEW sa - confused, uncertain, apt to be mistaken for another species

S. difficilis - diff i SEAL is - difficult

S. diplotricha - dip lo TRIKE a - with two kinds of hairs

S. goetzeana —ge(r)t zee AIN a - after W. Goetz who collected in East Africa

S. grandifolia - gran di FOH lee a - large-leaved

S. grotei - GROTE ee eye - after the collector Grote

S. inconspicua - in kon SPIC yew a - inconspicuous

S. intermedia - in ter MEED ee a - intermediate between the rosette and creeping or vining form

S. ionantha - eye oh NAN tha - with flowers resembling violets

S. magungensis - ma gung GEN sis - growing in Magunga

var. *minima* - MIN im a - smallest

var. *occidentalis* - ok sid en TAY lis - Western

S. nitida - ni TYE da - shining

S. orbicularis - or bik yew LAY ris - round, disc shaped

var. *purpurea* - per PER ee a - purple

S. pendula - PEN dew la - hanging

var. *kizarae* - kiz ar aye ee - (derivation not found)

S. pusilla - pew SILL a - very small

S. rupicola - roo pik KOL a - growing in cliffs and ledges, rock dweller

S. shumensis - shoo MEN sis - growing in Shume

S. teitensis - tye Ten sis - of the Teita Hills location

S. tongwensis - tong WEN sis - of Tongwe, a mountain in East Africa

S. velutina - vel yew TYE na - velvety

Your library is a source of information to research this subject. In addition to Webster's and a Latin dictionary, my authority for the above has come mainly from authors L. H. Bailey, Harold E. Moore, Jr., Dr. Margaret Stone, A. W. Smith, Ralph Bailey and from Dr. W. G. D'Arcy, research botanist at the Missouri Botanical Gardens.

AVSA AFFILIATES

*Mrs. Wayne (Mildred) Schroeder
Affiliate Chairman
1739 N 74th Court
Elmwood Park, IL 60635*



On July 1, AVSA had 463 full fledged, paid up affiliated chapters! We need each and every one of you and are happy that the new affiliations continue to roll in. Our hats are off to the state of TEXAS which leads the list with 60 chapters, and CALIFORNIA a close second with 49 chapters. Closing the gap and not far behind are WISCONSIN AND NEW YORK. The complete list of all AVSA affiliates is included in this issue of the African Violet Magazine. Check it for your information and use it when on vacation or visiting a different part of the country to say "Hello" to AVSA members who might enjoy a chat about our favorite plant.

Our very newest chapters and their presidents are:
ALPHA AVS OF DALLAS, Mrs. Merrill Schneider, 4613 Oakwood Dr., Garland, TX 75043

HAMILTON AVC, INC, Mrs. Eileen McLechlan, 138 B Sandwich Rd., Hamilton, New Zealand.

TEHACHAPI AVS, Mrs. Ivy Lambert, Star Route Box 1317, Tehachapi, CA 93561

ANTELOPE VALLEY AVS, Barbara Baker, 44009 Carolside Ave., Lancaster, CA 93534

BLOOMIN VIOLETS AVS, Mrs. Marcia Balonis, Boston Rd., Groton, MA 01450

SUNDOWNERS AVS, Mary N. McFarland, 3053 Blackwell Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70805

NORTHERN LIGHTS AVC, Fran Braga, 8936 Logan Ave., S. Minneapolis, MN 55431

HUNTSVILLE AVS, Mrs. Lester Fanning, Rt. 4, Nale Dr., Madison, AL 35758

MIDLAND AVS, Susan Clark, 3517 W. Shandon, Midland, TX 79703

CHATTAKOOCHIEE VALLEY AVS, Mrs. Polly Crutchfield, Rt. 1, Box 861, Smith, AL 36877

EDNA BASS STUDENT AVS, Sherry L. Nash, 2608 Jupiter, Harvey, LA 70058

PASA TIEMPO AVC, Mrs. Ilse-Rose Edgett, 2288 38th St., Los Alamos, NM 87544

BENNETTSVILLE AREA AVC, Mrs. B. B. Sanders III, 701 Jefferson St., Bennettsville, SC 29512

A special welcome to the Hamilton Club in New Zealand which joins the 33 previously affiliated chapters outside the continental USA! Perhaps we will be able to share growing experiences with these clubs in the near future.

Remember—this is the month that your club will receive the dues notice from the AVSA Knoxville office. Please return the form with all of the information filled in, with your check to the Knoxville office. Clarice Bell will appreciate it, I will say "Thank you" and you will receive your charter for the coming year promptly.

PORTRAITS

The African violet bug is long known to inflict a "bite" on violet buffs that may cause a lifetime interest in hybridizing, propagating and showing as well as growing exhibition quality plants.

Certainly the "bug" bit Mrs. H. Steven Johnson: of the Central Florida African Violet Society several years ago with far more than the consequences listed above. Suzy Johnson so enjoyed growing violets that it was only natural that she organized the Central Florida African Violet Society to "share" her talents and love for this most fascinating flowering indoor plant with others. Each year since then, members have improved their technique in growing outstanding violets, under Suzy's helpful guidance.

She also taught members the art of arranging artistic designs using cut violets or live plants. Among other violet society activities, Suzy Johnson is an ac-

tive instructor and still has time and energy to devote to keeping her family happy.

None of these activities detract from her enthusiasm or energy. In less time than it takes to snap your fingers, Suzy unpacked her prize-winning violets after the Spring Show and repacked another group of violets to present a most informative program to the Deep South Convention in less than a week. Not only could one hear a pin drop while she demonstrated the correct methods for growing exhibition type plants but went on to extoll the benefits of membership in AVSA and even distributed applications for membership.

For her unbounding enthusiasm in helping people grow fine African violets, it is only fitting that her philosophy is "Every little bit of learning helps in growing and enjoying beautiful violets".



PAMELA
(Ernest Fisher)
Grown by
Peelers African Violets

JIM DANDY
(Granger's)
Grown by
Peeler's African Violets





MIDGET RINGER

CHAMPION'S CHEERFULS

AMETHYST SPARKS



(Photos by Duane Champion)

Commercial Views AVSA Convention

*Jerry A. Barnard
Boswell & Barnard
1605 Greenville Ave.
Dallas, TX 75206*

From months of preparation beforehand, to much tedious work during the actual convention, to cleanup and bookkeeping afterward, it should be obvious to anyone, who has attended even one AVSA convention, that it is a tremendous undertaking. That was my impression as a first-time visiting Commercial grower. One of the remarkable things about the Austin convention was the wide-ranging help from violet clubs all over the state to the local sponsoring groups. But perhaps this applies to all AVSA conventions.

The planning of a convention requires many long hours of study and thought on the part of the many persons involved. From a visiting commercial standpoint, with no prior experience to fall back on, many questions arose. If one is planning on exhibiting, shall it be a full commercial display table (that means up to 25 show plants to grow and transport to the convention site) or only a few plants in the open competition?

If one is planning to sell, how far in advance does one start potting off plantlets from leaves to have them a saleable size and how many to take? All of this had to be planned and decided and the information forwarded to the society chairman for reservations months ahead of the convention dates.

After all the months of work, worry and wondering, convention time finally arrived. In our case, we had decided to take the gamble of attempting a display table since the convention site was within 200 miles and we could drive them down. Next year and most other years this might not be possible, or if feasible from say, a coordinated vacation period, flying still saves a lot of time and wear on the nerves. Losing one's plants—like one's luggage—on an airplane, too, is a worry.

I had never exhibited this extensively during a show before in my 17 years' growing experience. I am one of the many who do not like the disbudding process, and did not plan nor rely on it for this convention either. As a commercial grower, our main aim is to produce a large continuing quantity of smaller plants. Growing show plants takes up a lot of time and space, and if you let them continue to bloom, your customers are constantly begging to buy. During the year preceding the convention, space limitations became such a problem that we were forced to sell off some of our show plants. We also decided to sell starter plants at the convention and tried to pro-

pagate as many of the newer varieties as we could. We planned on a target of around 400 plants as that would be about all we could carry in the car after the show plants were loaded.

My partner left to drive to Austin and had to rush since the sale plants had to be inspected that morning before the convention. I remained in Dallas to work one more day and flew to Austin that evening. Arriving there, I found my partner ill in his hotel room. He had had a hectic day meeting the inspection deadline and trying to take care of the first day's crowd, which was in a rush to buy up all the latest varieties. He handles the orchid side of our business, so he had to refer to the Master Variety List for descriptions. I was truly sympathetic!

Thus, resigned to my fate, I commenced setting up the display table in the show room amidst the bustle of entries being received from amateur competition. I was relieved to see there was no transit damage, even to the large gloxinias.

Some of the other displays were already set up, so I drifted around for a sneak preview and to get some last-minute pointers on how to best arrange the plants. It was a fascinating preview, since at long last I got to view Lyon's, Swift's, House of Violets and others that I had read about in the AV Magazine for over the years, but saw now for the first time! Lyon's display was of special interest, as his history of sweeping awards year after year was well known to me. It was easy to see why. The plants were among the most beautiful I had ever seen. Some of the other exhibits seemed overcrowded as the plants were so big they had to overlap to fit the tables.

Swifts' and House of Violets displays exemplified expertise at indoor growing under lights with the aid of Swifts' Moist-Rite planters. Another first-time exhibitor in the commercial displays, Susan's Violets, also displayed a fine collection of plants in those planters, Hortense's African Violets displayed a lot of Howard Utz' fine hybrids and a nice miniature assortment. Baker's African Violets displayed some of his new hybrids, many of which are really exceptional, since they are working with the neglected areas of bicolors, fantasies, fringed edges, greens and reds. Tinari's had a gorgeous specimen of extremely heavy green-fringed edges, which was a sport of his new introduction 'Anne's Favorite'. (Hopefully the introduction will prove stable enough for introduction, too). Buell's displayed some unusual tones in an

assortment of gloxinia tigrina (the spotted types) hybrids.

Soon the display table was completed. The next day I manned the sales booth. My partner was still not feeling well. I was surprised that a number of customers seemed to expect all the commercials to be present and selling in the sales area at the appointed hours. It never seemed to occur to these people that a lot of other convention activities such as workshops, directors' meetings, etc., overlapped and conflicted with the sales hours. Some complaints, too, were heard about some commercials only sold one day or two—not during the full convention. Those making the complaints failed to realize that some of these had come from such long distances they couldn't bring as many sales plants as others who lived closer. Nonetheless, the selection of plants on sale was the widest and most complete I've ever seen. Conventions are definitely a good place to locate that variety you've hunted for so long.

Of course, the newest varieties sold out very quickly. It is certainly understandable that the mail order commercials reserve their orders for the first-come, first-served mail orders, which are backlogged awaiting the shipping season. Many people fail to realize this situation and are disappointed because they wait too late to place their order. I also had complaints about the size of my starter plants and many inquired if they were miniatures! Oddly enough, I prefer to buy small starter plants at reduced prices, so I assumed the public would, too. However, I do grow a large number of small plants and though some few die after transplanting, there is never enough room for them all. (Yes, even commercials are constantly fighting space problems). But this doesn't worry me unless it is a one-of-a-kind variety or a newly arrived introduction. But much of the public will only grow mature plants and have little propagating experience, so I will know in the future not to bring plants that are too small.

The convention show was impressive with numerous outstanding plants in the amateur section. Almost any "Best of Class" plant would have made a fitting "Best in Show". Some of my favorites were a superb specimen of 'Grand Duke', which took its class, and several outstanding variegates like 'Alouette', 'Pink Pillow' and 'Granger's Festival'. In the commercial section there was no great surprise as Lyon's 'Coral Radiance' won Best Introduction and his display table won Best Commercial.

The sales of starter plants turned out about as expected, despite the complaints. The heaviest demand was for new introductions like 'Dyn-o-Mite', 'Hot Cargo', 'Hot Lips' or unreleased varieties like, 'Coral Radiance'. The miniatures and variegates were about equally popular. Utz and Maas varieties seemed to be

in great demand. Champion's also sold well. Friday was the busiest sales day since that was the day the show was open to the public.

It did seem somewhat strange that the show was open to the public only one day and that not a weekend day. After the tremendous amount of work and cooperation required to put on the show, it seems that AVSA would benefit more if the show were open two days or on a Saturday rather than Friday since people work on Friday and are not able to attend.

It will also be interesting to see if the attendance increases next year since the convention will not be held until June, which falls during the vacation period. This is certainly a welcome change for some commercials especially, as spring is their busy season. However, the mail order businesses may disagree, since most cannot begin shipping until May.

At any rate, I hope to make Denver my SECOND convention and perhaps you will, too!

AFRICAN VIOLET BOOK OFF PRESS

An African violet book for beginners, "African Violets and Related Plants From Mother Nature", is a beautifully illustrated color book just off the press. James E. Gick, author, in his foreword explains that "all the basic cultural requirements for producing healthy, flowering plants are fully illustrated in the book." Included in the AV Album section are 117 colorful photographs, most of which were taken at Andy and Carol Anderson's The Green House in Bellflower, CA. Also are pictured 21 other colorful gesneriads.

After a brief history of the origin of African violets, there is a discussion of their natural characteristics, effects of light and temperature, soil/components and fertilizer, water and humidity, variety of containers, methods of transplanting, ways to hybridize and methods of propagation. Each of these is aptly illustrated with color photographs.

Of especial interest to beginners is the portion devoted to "Pests and Sick Plants" in which these problems are described, reasons advanced and remedies suggested.

The books are to be nationally distributed and are to sell for \$3.00.

The revised AFRICAN VIOLET HANDBOOK FOR JUDGES AND EXHIBITORS is available for \$3 from the AVSA office.



CAPPRICIO



**FREDETTE
Hybrids**

(Photos by Irene Fredette)

POLLY DOODLE

REGISTRATION REPORT



Adele Tretter
4988 Schollmeyer
St. Louis, MO 63109

The following registrations have been received during the period from May 31 through July 31, 1978:

KRISTEN MARIE (3434) L-PX 29 sfc S 6/11/78
Mrs. Goldie Kinne, 206 N. Indiana Ave., Water-
town, NY 13601

NANCY ANDERSON (3435) W 27 s-d S 6/13/78
Mrs. O. G. Pierson, 5629 Westerick Dr., Fort Worth,
TX 76133

LAVENDER GIRL (3436) OX 45 d M 7/5/78
Mrs. H. R. Tiedeman, 1008 Bakewell Ave., Normal,
IL 61761

CLASSY KITTY (3437) M-PX 2 dfc S 7/17/78
DANDY DANCER (3438) WV-E 5 dfc S 7/17/78
DEAR ELLIE (3439) WVC 29 dc M 7/17/78
DYN-O-MITE (3440) R-V 2 dc S 7/17/78
KUDDLY (3441) WR-E 5 sfc M 7/17/78
MELLOW TRAIL (3442) D-P 2 dc S-T 7/17/78
MISTER CHIPS (3443) Y-BW-E 2 dc S 7/17/78
RADIANT TRAIL (3444) L-P 28 dc S-T 7/17/78
REVOLUTIONARY RED (3445) M-R 5 dfc S
7/17/78
SMALL WORLD (3446) WB 2 dfc M 7/17/78
Lyndon Lyon, 14 Mutchler St., Dolgeville, NY 13329

RESERVATIONS

The following reservations have been received during the same period as above:

6/5/78 — HOUSTON * CATHLEEN * DEBORA
ANN * MARY PATRICIA * LINDA LEE * SUSAN
KAY * MARY MARGARET * EMMA LOU Reserved
by Billie Golla, 6203 Rollingbrook, Houston, TX
77096

6/11/78 — BETTY'S LAVENDER LIME * BETTY'S
BLUEBERRY SWIRLS Reserved by Betty Miller 905
N. Elm, Owasso, OK 74055

6/27/78 — CIRELDA * MELBA LOVE * YAYLO *

MIDNIGHT WANDER * TRACY TRAIL * LINDA
DARNEL Reserved by Pat Tracy, 291 Pine Dr., Bar-
rie Ont., Canada L4N 4J3

7/6/78 MADONNA Reserved by Dorothy Louis, 86
South Union St., Apt. 409, Rochester, NY 14607

7/12/78 PINK MAGIC Reserved by Ruth Tiedeman,
1008 Bakewell Ave., Normal, IL

CORRECTIONS

FRANKIE, by Max Maas. Reservation should be
FRANKIE LEE.

OH MY #3308 1/28/78 by Deborah J. Good should
be DEBORAH'S OH MY

Please make these corrections in your books.

'Wee Lass' Mutant

Last year I bought three rooted clumps of 'Wee Lass', a miniature double red and white with semihol-
ly medium green foliage from Lyndon Lyon.

Three of the babies clumped like a miniature head of lettuce. Finally one "stretched out" with beautiful shiny medium green ornamental leaves. To my delight, the blossom, too, was different. It looks like a white orchid — five petals — the two top ones being smaller than the rest and all have a green edge. The petals fold to the back of the flower stalk forming a pure snow white calla lily.

I told Mr. Lyon about it and said it wasn't floriferous, but right now it has a complete circle of these unusual flowers.

Any suggestions for a name? I was thinking perhaps 'Calla Baby'. That sounds better than "mutant".

MOVING???

Moving? Please notify the Knoxville office of your new address as quickly as you know what it will be! Send your new address to AVSA, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, TN 37901.

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Mrs. Mildred E. Schroeder
 1739 N 74 Ct., Elmwood Park, IL 60635
Affiliate Chairman

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 AVS OF QUEENSLAND, Mrs. E. Sharpe, 835 Brunswick St., New Farm Brisbane Q'ld 4005
 AVS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, R. Richardson, 17 Somers St., North Brighton 5048 South Australia
 EARLY MORN AV GROUP OF VICTORIA SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY, Mrs. B. Salzer, 12 Annetta Ave., Ashburton 3147 Victoria
 WARRAGUL AND DISTRICT AV GROUP, Mrs. C. Elliott, P. O. Nilma, Victoria

BAHAMAS

BAHAMAS AVS, Mrs. Pearl Cox, P. O. Box N 1268, Nassau

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*BERMUDA AVS, Mrs. Doreen Woolridge, "Garden House" Flatts 3-20

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 CALGARY AVS, Donna Clarke, 8951 Baylor Crescent S.W., Calgary, Alberta, T2V 3N5
 CHARLOTTETOWN AVS, Mrs. Hilda Lewis, 202 Spring Park Rd., Charlottetown PEI, C1A 3Y9
 DELBROOK AVS, Mrs. Doreen Jamieson, 634 Croydon Pl, North Vancouver B C V7N 3A1
 FIRST HALIFAX AVS, Mrs. Joanne Pinkerton, 45 Woodlawn Rd., Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
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 SASKATOON AVS, Mrs. Wilma Regehr, 3326 14th St., E. Saskatoon
 TORONTO AVS, E. Bruce, 36 Elfreda Blvd., Scarborough, Ontario, M1L 4L7
 TOTEM AVS OF VANCOUVER, Mrs. Doreen Jamison, 634 Croyden Place, North Vancouver, B.C. V7N 3A1
 VANCOUVER AVC, Mrs. E. Mahrer, 345 13th Ave. Vancouver, V5Y 1W2
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 WINNIPEG AVS, Mrs. M. Innard, 122 Regina Ave., Kenora, Ontario P9N 2Z7

YORK AVS, Mrs. Gerald Storey, 217 Hanwell Rd., Fredericton, N.B.

ENGLAND

SAINTPAULIA AND HOUSEPLANT SOCIETY, Anthony Huxley, Esq. 50 Villiers Ave., Surbiton Surrey

JAMAICA

AVS OF JAMAICA, Mrs. Hilda Donaldson, 1 Dunbarton Ave., Kingston 10

MEXICO

PRIMER CLUB de VIOLETAS, Josefina Dade de Santos, Pirineos 601, col Jardin Monterrey NL

NEW ZEALAND

HAMILTON AVC INC., Mrs. Eileen McLachlan, 138 B Sandwich Rd., Hamilton

PHILIPPINES

AVS OF THE PHILIPPINES, Mrs. Angela T. Staley, 2172 Pasong Tamo St., Makati D3117, Metro Manila

SOUTH AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICAN GLOXINIA, AV AND POT PLANT SOCIETY, Mrs. J. Courtis, 16 Randles Rd., Kloof, Natal

SOUTH AMERICA

CIRCULO de la VIOLETA AFRICANA, FLOR PERU, Vita de Selva-Santisteban, Avenida Santa Cruz 937, Lima 18 Peru, S.A.

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA, NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA, FLORIDA, MISSISSIPPI, TENNESSEE, LOUISIANA, TEXAS AND ARKANSAS: DIXIE AVS Dr. J. B. Jung, 5916 Cherokee Lane, Alexandria, LA 71301

ALABAMA

*AVS OF MADISON COUNTY, Betty J. Burch, Rt 5, Box 306, Huntsville 35811
 AV STUDY CLUB OF BIRMINGHAM, Mrs. Harry Hicks, 1017 8th Ave., West, Birmingham 35204
 BAMA BELLES AVS, Mrs. D. E. Sands, 1701 India Rd., Opelika 36801
 CHATTAKOOCHIE VALLEY AVS, Mrs. Polly Crutchfield, Rt. 1, Box 861, Smith 36877
 COVINGTON AVS, Mrs. George Benton, Rt. 6, Andalusia 26420
 GOLDEN CIRCLE AVC, Mrs. E. C. Brown, 45 S Valley Rd., Palmyerale 35123
 HUNTSVILLE AVS, Mrs. Lester Fanning, Rt. 4, Nale Dr., Madison 35758
 MAGIC CITY AVS, Mrs. Walter Anderson, 3168 Star Lake Dr., Birmingham 35226
 MONTGOMERY AVS, Mrs. Orland Sisler, 2833 Ashley Ave., Montgomery 36109
 MUSCLE SHOALS AVS, Mrs. Louise Thomas, 217 Baldwin St., Florence 35630
 T.H.E. AVS, Ted Wohlford, 2320 Farley Terrace, Birmingham 35226
 TROY ALABAMA AVS, Donal S. Dunbar Sr., 1006 No. 3 Notch St., Troy 36081

ALASKA

*AURORA BOREALIS AVS, Mrs. Henry Wolff, 1635 East 26th Ave., Anchorage 99503

ARIZONA

AV CULTURE CLUB, Mrs. Maudie Kiesling, 114 W. Fairmont Dr., Tempe 85282

TUCSON AVS, Mrs. Bernice H. Strauss, 4002 E. Montecite Ave., Tucson 85711

ARKANSAS

ARK-MO TOWN AND COUNTRY AVC, Eula Schug, 803 Wirt St., Paragould 72450

BEAVER LAKE AVC, Judy Haley, Rt. 2, Box 294, Lowell 72745

CENTRAL ARKANSAS AVS, Rev. Jeremiah Monios, Box 5687, Little Rock 72215

CONWAY AVC, Mrs. Elmo Henry, Rt. 3, Greenbrier 72058

GREEN THUMB AVS, Mrs. M. C. Maxwell, 1323 N Garland Ave., Fayetteville 72701

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LITTLE ROCK AVS, Mrs. Gladys Brown, 9201 Hilaro Springs Rd., Little Rock 72204

SPRINGDALE VIOLET STUDY CLUB, Mrs. David McAlister, P. O. Box 748, Springdale 72764

CALIFORNIA

AV COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, John Thein, 16424 Ludlow St., Granada Hills 91344

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF AV SOCIETIES, Doris Hundley, 921 Spencer Way, Los Altos 94022

*AVSA JUDGES COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, Mrs. L. E. Rosenfeld, 2030 Junction Ave., El Cerrito 94530

*AVSA JUDGES COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, Mrs. E. T. Bartholomew, 172 W. Elfin Green, Port Hueneme 93041

AV HOBBYISTS OF SACRAMENTO, Minnie T. Mobley, 3340 M St., Sacramento 95816

AVS OF EAST BAY, Mrs. Wesley H. Peck, P. O. Box 3034, Fremont 94538

AVS OF LEISURE WORLD, Charles Van Doren, 2157-B Via Mariposa East, Laguna Hills 92653

AVS OF MONTEREY PENINSULA, Gertrude Bisnett, 47 Sierra Vista, Monterey 93940

AVS OF PALO ALTO, Barbara Hockett, 519 Hawthorne Ct., Los Altos 94022

AVS OF SAN FRANCISCO, Louis B. Ambler, Jr., 220 El Toyonal, Orinda 94563

*AVS OF SOUTH BAY, Mrs. Harry Loomis, 1543 Belleville, Sunnyvale 94087

ALUM ROCK AVS, Mrs. Irene Haseltine, 365 South Henry Ave., San Jose 95117

AVS OF MONTROSE, George Carpentier, 2358 Montrose Ave., Montrose 91020

ANTELOPE VALLEY AVS, Barbara Baker, 44009 Carolside Ave., Lancaster 93534

BAKERSFIELD AVS, Ruth Jo McCoy, Rt. 1, Box 580, Arvin 93203

BALBOA PARK AVS, Mrs. Betty Logan, 9818 La Cresta Rd., Spring Valley 92027

BLOOMING AVC, Mrs. Andrea Conley, 313 Hemlock, Escondido 92026

CANYON COUNTRY AVC, John Thein, 16424 Ludlow St., Granada Hills 91344

CAPITOL CITY SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY, J. A. Carpenter, 9237 Chestwall St., Orangevale 95662

CAROLYN RECTOR SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY, Mrs. Lois Clark, 3800 Madrid St., Bakersfield 93309

*CENTRAL CALIFORNIA AVS, Helen Sepe, 7058 N. Fresno St., Fresno 93710

DESERT AVS, Ruth Jo McCoy, Rt. 1, Box 580 Arvin 93203

FRIENDLY AVC OF ATWATER, Audrey S. Bambauer, P. O. Box 2216, Los Banos 93635

GLENDALE AVS, Carroll McCarroll, 4100 Haskell Ave., Encino

91436

GRANADA HILLS AVS, Hans Inpijn, 4100 Haskell Ave., Encino 91436

INGLEWOOD AVS, Mrs. Ann Kaplan, 12105 S Cedar Ave., Hawthorne 90250

KERN RIVER VALLEY AVS, Mrs. Georgiana Breland, 6256 Lynch Canyon, Mt. Mesa, Lake Isabella 93240

LAMPLIGHTERS AVS, Mrs. Dorothy Bray, 2335 Simas Ave., Pinola 94564

LOS ANGELES AVS, Mrs. Marion Pinkston, 5216 Marburn Ave., Los Angeles

*NITE BLOOMERS, Janet Elliott, 5809 Ponce Ct., San Jose 95120

ORANGE COUNTY AVS, Mrs. Sylvia Fellows, 4718 Maychelle Dr., Anaheim 92807

PASADENA AVS, George Carpentier, 2358 Montrose Ave., Montrose 91020

PINOLA AVS, Mrs. Dorothy Bray, 2335 Simas Ave., Pinola 94564

POMONA VALLEY AVS, Bernette M. Malone, 802 Laurel Oak Dr., Axusa 91702

SAN DIEGO COUNTY AVS, Mrs. Ruth Noetzel, 16456 Martincort, Poway 92064

SAN DIEGO DAYTIME AVS, Mrs. Frances C. King, 3327 28th St., San Diego 92104

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AVS, Lee Way, 14246 Nordhoff St., Panorama City 91402

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CHAPTER AVSA, Dorothy Gruwell, 200 N El Camino Real Sp 282, Oceanside 92054

SAN JOAQUIN AVS, Joan Leonard, 2341 Santiago, Apt. C, Stockton 95209

*SAN MATEO COUNTY AVS, Mrs. Richard Chase, 482 Rutherford Ave., Redwood City 94061

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AVC, Margaret E. Schantz, 1155 Lone Pine Lane, San Jose 95120

SANTA CRUZ AVS, Mrs. Harry Davis, 170 Wingfoot, Aptos 95003

SANTA MONICA BAY CHAPTER AVSA, Mrs. Charlotte Rosengrant, 2705 Krim Dr., Los Angeles 90064

*SUNDOWN AVS OF BAKERSFIELD, Mrs. Ruth Jo McCoy, Rt. 1, Box 580, Arvin 93202

*TEHACHAPI AVS, Mrs. Ivy Lambert, Star Route Box 1317, Tehachapi 93561

TOWN AND COUNTRY AVS, Mrs. Elizabeth Craig, 4128 Oakwood, Riverside 92506

TUSTANA AVS, Cheridah C. Lewis, 9841 Brentwood Dr., Santa Ana 92705

VENTURA COUNTY AVS, Pat Montgomery, 5540 W. 5th St., #49, Oxnard 93030

WHITTIER AVS, Mrs. Harriet Bisgrover, 6033 Milton Ave., Whittier 90601

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*HI COUNTRY JUDGES WORKSHOP, Mrs. O. M. Hutcheson, 4184 S. Decatur St., Englewood 80110

ROCKY MOUNTAIN AV COUNCIL, Mrs. Dorothy J. Roesch, 2575 South Wadsworth Ct., Denver 80227

AVC OF GOLDEN, Mrs. Phyllis Speer, 2405 Willow Lane, Lakewood 80215

AVS OF DENVER CHAPTER 1, Mrs. H. V. Douglas, 2057 S. Corona, Denver 80210

CAPITAL CITY VC, Mrs. Margaret Schaezel, 2425 S. Leyden, Denver 80222

FRIENDLY AVS, Mrs. M. D. Boster, 6146 South Everett St., Littleton 80123

GATEWAY VC, William D. Stone, 12068 E. Amherst Pl., Denver 80232

GLOXINIA GESNERIAD GROWERS, Mrs. Lynn Cooper, 1675 Dayton St., Aurora, 80010

HAPPINESS IS AVS, Dorothy B. Lang, 3900 Carlock Ave., Boulder 80303

HI HOPES STUDY CLUB, Mrs. E. A. Bromagin, 2895 South York St., Denver 80210

JOLLY VC OF EASTERN COLORADO, Joe Falch, 24 Overton Rd.,
Genoa 80818
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Pueblo 81006
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St., Denver 80224
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Lakewood 80227

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DELAWARE AVS, Mrs. John Callaghan, 2806 Rickdale Rd.,
Talleybrook Wilmington 19810

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St., N.W., Washington, DC 20015

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sacola 32504
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chka 32465
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St., Sarasota 33580
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Miami 33155
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Tallahassee 32303
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33604
UPPER PINELLAS AVS, Mrs. Wm. Zane, 1830 Kendall Dr., Clear-
water 33516

GEORGIA

AVC OF GREATER ATLANTA, Kathy Spissman, 3208 Henderson
Mill Rd., Apt., 5, Atlanta 30341
AVS OF VALDOSTA, Mrs. Julian Shierling, Rt. 1, Box 204,
Valdosta 31601
CLASSIC CITY AVS, Mrs. Brian Henderson, 195 Pendleton Dr.,
Athens 30606
DALTON AVS, Mrs. Larry Reed, 219 Blue Mountain Pkwy., N.W.
Rocky Face 30740
FIRST SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY OF ATLANTA, Mrs. Lee Stone,
2488 Headland Dr., East Point 30344
HIGH HOPES VC OF SOUTH ATLANTA, Mrs. Wilma Hitchcock,
1364 Womack Ave., East Point 30344
LANIERLAND AVS, Mrs. Mona Boulware, 1133 Enota Circle,
Gainesville 30501
MASTER CITY AVS, Marsha Sanders, 4461 Old Waynesboro Rd.,
Hephzibah 30815

HAWAII

AVS OF HAWAII, Carl M. Higa, 2456 Lamaku Pl., Honolulu 96816

IDAHO

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1808 2nd Ave., East, Twin Falls 83301

ILLINOIS

ILLINOIS AVS, Jimmy D. Dates, R. R. #1, Box 72D, Sugar Grove
60554
AVS OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS, Mrs. Anna J. Landgren, 810 In-
gleside, Evanston 60201
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182, Barrington 60010
EVENING BLOOMERS AVS, Mrs. Linn Thompson, 1226 E. Hines
Ave., Peoria Heights 61614
*EXHIBITORS CLUB, Mrs. Ray Schroeder, 217 Andrews, Dwight
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Champaign 61820
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S. Lake Camelot Dr., Mapleton 61547
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ROCKFORD AVC, Marcia Fleener, 602 Paris Ave., Rockford 61107
ROSEWOOD AVS, Mrs. Tony Krueger, R. 2, Witt Mill Rd.,
Jerseyville 62052
SUBURBAN AV ENTHUSIASTS, Dr. James Whitfield, R. R. 2, Box
6, Chicago Heights 60411
TAYLORVILLE AV UNIT #1, Florence Krumsieck, Box 130,
Taylorville 62568
TWIN CITIES AVS, James B. Lathem, 717 Kethleen Dr., Normal
61761
VIVA LA VIOLETS, Mrs. Gene Thiel, 100 Fletcher, Collinsville
62234
WEDGEWOOD AVC, Cyril F. Key, 1101 Sterling Dr., Rockford
61107

INDIANA

FRIENDLY AVC, Mrs. Walter Wilson, 2982 Jamestown Ct., No.

Mishawaka 46544
 GYPSY AVC, Mrs. Evelyn Duffield, Rt. 2, Eaton, OH 45320
 INDIANAPOLIS AVC, Mrs. Walter Spencer, 18 S. Arlington Ave., Indianapolis 46219
 KIMBERLY AVC, Mrs. James Skinner, 1025 W. 52nd St., Indianapolis 46208
 PLYMOUTH AVC, Mrs. J. Yocum, P. O. Box 18, La Paz 46563
 RAINBOW CHAPTER OF AVSA, Mary Moore, 2510 Farnsworth Dr., Ft. Wayne 46808
 STEUBEN COUNTY AVS, Mrs. Lyle Parker, R. R. 1, Hudson 46747
 TWIN COUNTY AVS, Mrs. Katherine Gray, R. R. 1, Logro 46702

IOWA

DES MOINES AVC, Mrs. Marie Ilstrup, 1252 42nd, Des Moines 50311
 EVENING AVC OF DES MOINES, Mrs. Robert L. Schubert, 3602 Hillsdale Dr., Des Moines 50322
 SPENCER AVS, Loretta Iverson, 1015 North Grand Ave., Spencer 51301

KANSAS

AIR CAPITAL SOCIETY OF AVSS, Nancy Phipps, 1303 S. Wichita, Wichita 67213
 BOOT HILL SAINTPAULIA CLUB, Mrs. Charles Gripe, 1604 8th, Dodge City 66502
 HAPPY TIMES AVS, Mrs. Edward Boggs, 205 Parmenter, Columbus 66725
 JUNCTION CITY AVS, Mrs. Edgar Ervin, 830 Crestview, Junction City 66441
 MANHATTAN AVS, Mrs. Elizabeth Leipold, 1604 Cedarcrest Dr., Manhattan 66502
 WICHITA AV STUDY CLUB, Mrs. Glenn Ritter, 901 Red Barn Lane, Wichita 67212

KENTUCKY

FILST AVS OF LOUISVILLE UNIT 1, Mrs. Wm. Gerenwein, 3038 Wilson Ave., Louisville 40211

LOUISIANA

ALEXANDRIA AVS, Mrs. James L. Tracy, 6822 Isabella Dr., Alexandria 71301
 ATCHAFALAYA VS OF AMERICA, Barbara Ghirardi, 512 Marshall St., Morgan City 70380
 *BATON ROUGE AVS, Mrs. J. Y. Ragusa, 1074 Barlange Dr., Baton Rouge 70806
 EDNA BASS STUDENT AVS, Sherry L. Nash, 2608 Jupiter, Harvey 70058
 FIRST AVS OF LAKE CHARLES, Gertrude M. Pesson, 1214 Common, Lake Charles 70601
 FIRST AVS OF ST. BERNARD, Carol Molero, 2908 Corinne Ave., Charmette 70043
 FIRST NEW ORLEANS AVS, Mrs. Marie Knoblock, 617 W. Niagara Circle, Gretna 70053
 JEFFERSON AV ASSOCIATION, Doris Deshotel, 9200 Darby Lane, River Ridge 70123
 LAFAYETTE AVC, Miss Josephine Wiggins, 103 Wedgewood Dr., Lafayette 70503
 NEW ORLEANS AVS, Mrs. A. LaCoste, 154 14th St., New Orleans 70124
 *SHREVEPORT AVS, Mrs. W. H. McCarty, 2930 Essex St., Shreveport 71108
 SOUTH LAKE CHARLES AVC, Mrs. Linda Fargue, 2625 Laura Lane, Lake Charles 70605
 *SUNDOWNERS AVS, Mary N. McFarland, 3053 Blackwell Dr., Baton Rouge 70805
 *TECHLAND AVS OF FRANKLIN, Miss Mary E. Duplantis, 815 Third St., Franklin 70538
 *SUNSET VC OF NEW ORLEANS, Norris and Lee Alexander, 1527 Maura Pl., New Orleans 70114
 *TOP CHOICE AVS, Mrs. O. P. Wilson, 6126 Burgundy Dr., Shreveport 71105

*TOWN AND COUNTRY VC, Mrs. A. L. Robison, P. O. Box 138, Geismar 70734
 VIOLETS AFTER FIVE, Frank C. Janca, 352 Delgado Dr., Baton Rouge 70808
 VIOLETS ON THE BAYOU, Mrs. Anaise LeBlanc, Rt. 2, Box 101-A, Napoleonville 70390

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE AVC, Betty Lages, 3609 Font Hill Dr., Ellicott City 21043
 SUSQUEHANNA AVS, Mrs. Grace V. Wilson, R. D. #1, Box 180, Perryville 21903
 WEST END AVC, Mrs. Robert Patterson, 20810 Slab Bridge Rd., Freeland 21053

MASSACHUSETTS

BAY STATE AVS, Miss Eleanor Coen, 22 Columbus Pl., West Newton 02165
 THE BLOOMIN VIOLETS AVS, Mrs. Marcia Balonis, Boston Rd., Groton 01450
 FRIENDLY AVC, Mrs. Beverly Kindred, 283 Central St., Natick 01760
 GATEWAY AVC OF FRAMINGHAM, Mrs. Alice Bagley, 419 Old Connecticut Path, Wayland 01778
 GREEN THUMB AVC OF MASSACHUSETTS, Mrs. Elmer Cook, 68 Bucklin St., North Attleboro 02763
 MERRIMACK VALLEY AVS, Marcia Balonis, Groton, Boston Road 01450
 MOBY DICK AVC, Mrs. Vera Beard, 171 Aquidneck St., New Bedford 02744
 NORTH SHORE AVS, Miss Maria Garuti, 118 Franklin St., Lynn 01902
 *PATRIOTS AVS, John Montague, 44 Brookside Ave., Belmont 02178
 PILGRIM AVC, Mrs. John M. Cook, 28 Minot St., Falmouth 02540
 TRIMOUNT AVS, Mrs. Anne Crowley, 232 Austin St., Hyde Park 02136
 WACHUSETT AVS, Mrs. Lois P. Roy, 21 Grove St., Orange 01364

MICHIGAN

MICHIGAN STATE AVS, Albert Blouw, 822 Elliott St., S.E., Grand Rapids 49507
 BATTLE CREEK AVS, Mrs. Leon Webster, 161 Marvon St., Battle Creek 49017
 BORDER CITIES AVC, J. P. Schobloher, 15341 Juliana, East Detroit 48021
 FIRST AVS OF GRAND RAPIDS, Mrs. Frank Tiesma, 3105 Dawes S. E., Grand Rapids 49508
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WHAT GIVES?—After all, says Joyce Moore of 1578 Tabor Avenue, Kettering, OH, 45420, what is a home without a furry friend and African violets? And to prove her point she has this photo of her cat, Sadku, sitting serenely near her African violets.

COLORADO—TALL AND TERRIFIC

*Linda Boster
 Publicity Chairman*

Colorado—tall and terrific—is the ideal spot for a vacation for those planning to attend the AVSA convention in June. If you like to camp out Colorado has plenty of campgrounds. If you like to fish, just come on over. You'll find Colorado, especially around Denver, the ideal place for combining a vacation and a few days at the AVSA Convention.

There are 13 acres of spectacular scenery preserved for your camping enjoyment. There are 400 campgrounds in 11 national forests, 4 national monuments, 2 national parks, and almost 90 per cent accommodate camping trailers and moderate sized house-trailers. You haven't camped out until you pitch your tent in the mountain wonderland of Colorado.

Colorado is big and tall; ninth in area and first in altitude, with an average elevation of 6800 feet above sea level. In all there are 54 peaks that exceed 14,000 feet in elevation. Drive the world's highest auto highway to the 14,264 foot summit of Mt. Evans.

Catch the big ones in Colorado! Colorado boasts of 9600 miles of unposted fishing streams, 2850 cold water lakes and reservoirs, and 360 warm water reservoirs. Come on up and try your luck. Fishing season is open all year.

Big game, historic mining towns, ghost towns, prehistoric cliff dwellings, fossils, dinosaur bones, Royal Gorge, Pikes Peak, the Great Sand Dunes, the Air Force Academy, the Molly Bown House, the Santa Fe Trail, the Navajo Trail, the Great Continental Divide . . . Colorado as a vacationland has everything!

We extend to you and all your family a cordial invitation to enjoy your vacation in our scenic wonderland. The Indians called it the "Land of the Long Look". May your look be long, and filled with memories of your happiest vacation!

JUDGING SCHOOL

The AVC of Greater Atlanta sponsored a two-day judging school with Mrs. J. A. W. (Ann) Richardson of Tavares, FL as the teacher. Fourteen members took the examination as well as two Federated Garden Club judges from Georgia. There were also members from the First Saintpaulia AVS of Atlanta, Lanierland AVS, Gainesville and Masters City AVS Augusta, in attendance.

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND

Mrs. L. F. Lidiak
4503 Sinclair Avenue
Austin, TX 78756

Who was Boyce Edens? I am sure many newcomers to AVSA ranks have asked themselves that question. From all reports, Mr. Edens was a Southern gentleman in the truest sense of the word. A native of Atlanta, GA, his formal education in the field of social work led him to a vocation that provided the opportunity to express his profound love of people. After his retirement in 1946 he pursued an active role in garden club affairs in his area — being especially interested in iris and African violets. Having become a recognized authority in these areas, he played a vital part in the organization of the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

Even in AVSA's fledgling years, the urgent need for research was recognized. One of the leading supporters of this concept was Boyce Edens. Originally the Scientific Committee (now known as the Research Committee) was established with whatever funding that could be spared coming from the AVSA Treasury. In 1952 this gentle and beloved man who had served AVSA so faithfully as its first treasurer and first chairman of the Plant Registration Committee was lost through death. Soon after a resolution presented by the Research Committee was approved and the Boyce Edens Memorial Fund was established — so was born an entity that has come to be known as the Boyce Edens Research Fund. Through the ensuing years this fund has served as an adjunct to the Research Committee by helping to provide the much-needed support for research.

Although most of the current members of AVSA were not privileged to know Boyce Edens, we are all much indebted to him for the time and foresight he extended in the interest of improving the African violet.

Contributions made from May 27, 1978 to July 26, 1978.

(In the event a donor does not wish to have the amount of a gift printed, a written request should be made to the chairman at the time of transmittal.)

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AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Mrs. A. F. (Mary) Boland
6415 Wilcox Court
Alexandria, VA 22310

Drake once stated, "to create a little flower is the labour of ages". I'd like to say to create a friendship grow an African violet. We all have experienced friendships with the help of our favorite plant, the African violet. And as the holiday season approaches why not remember a friend or a loved one with a contribution to the Booster Fund? I would like to thank all who donated this past year to the fund, and

wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a Happy New Year from the Booster Fund.

Contributions from May 15, 1978 to August 1, 1978.

- Towne South Estates Addition
Garden Club, St. Louis, MO.....\$10.00
First AVS of Wichita Falls, TX..... 5.00
Mrs. Adeline E. Krogman, Brookfield, WI
(in memory of Ruth Carey's mother)..... 10.00
Potomac Council of AVJ, Falls Church, VA.. 10.00
Evening AVC of Des Moines, IA..... 10.00
Upper Pinellas AVS Clearwater, FL..... 50.00
Granada Hills AVS North Hollywood, CA
(in memory of Lynne Brown)..... 5.00
Corpus Christi AVS, TX..... 25.00
Rhode Island AVS, Warwick..... 15.00
Parmatown AVC, Parma, OH..... 25.00
If it is your desire to remain anonymous please state in your correspondence.



(Please send notices of "Coming Events" directly to the Editor; not to the Knoxville office. See inside cover (Strictly Business — Your Business) for deadlines.

FEB. 10-11 FLORIDA — Brevard AVS will present its third annual show, "In Search of a Rainbow," at the Melbourne, FL Holiday Inn, Highway U.S. 1. Show chairmen are Bob Geen and Mrs. DoDe Whitaker.

FEB. 24-25 OKLAHOMA — The AVS of Greater Tulsa's 3rd annual show/sale, "Violets Around the World", at Tulsa Garden Center. Open to public. No admission charge. 12 noon - 5 p.m. Mrs. Jeanne Chelsea, chairman; Mrs. Sidney Groeneman, co-chairman.

FEB. 24-25 MISSISSOURI — Metropolitan St. Louis AVS' 25th annual show, "Silver Jubilee", at Missouri Botanical Garden in floral display house. Feb. 24, 2-5 p.m.; Feb. 25, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

MARCH 3-4 TEXAS — Corpus Christi AVS' annual show and sale will be held at the Garden Center, 5325 Greely Dr., Corpus Christi. Mrs. Renai Baker, show chairman; Mrs. Jan Thornton, co-chairman.

MARCH 17-18 TEXAS — First AVS of Dallas, TX to celebrate "Silver Anniversary with African Violets" at Northpart Mall, Central Expressway and Northwest Highway (Loop 12). Mar. 17, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Mar. 18, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mary Hedlund, 120 N. Spring Creek Dr., Richardson, TX, show chairman.

MARCH 23-24 TEXAS — First Arlington AVS to hold annual show/sale at Forum 303 Shopping Mall, 2900 E. Pioneer Parkway, Arlington, TX.

**ADD GIFT MEMBERSHIPS
TO YOUR CHRISTMAS LIST**

**Give a friend the African Violet Magazine
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A gift membership in the African Violet Society of America, Inc., will bring year-long pleasure and a constant reminder of your thoughtfulness.
A special card, with a picture of a beautiful African violet in color, will be sent to inform new members that they will receive five issues of the African Violet Magazine and membership from March 1, 1979 through February 28, 1980 as your gift. As a special bonus, copies of the January issue will be sent to the first 100 new members.

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See "Strictly Business" for information on how to order Master Variety List #3.



A Foote on the Violet Path

By Grace Foote

I've always maintained that "to err is human, to forgive divine"—recently I mentioned in my column that a picture had been printed in another magazine that was an exact duplicate of one printed in the AVM and credited to **Mildred Schroeder** as the photographer. We wondered how this was possible. Now **Grace Eyerdorn** explains that her photographer, **Frank Aleksandrowicz**, should have credit for the photo, which she had sent to both magazines. My error and sincere apologies to all concerned . . . And, too, we'd like the **Bergen County AVS** members to know we're sorry they weren't given credit for the award presented **Mrs. J. Crisafulli** of Belchertown, MA for her 'Bergen's Strawberry Sherbert' in the June AVM. According to **Celine Chase**, Awards Chairman, **Mrs. Crisafulli** won two awards for 'Bergen's Strawberry Sherbert' but from different donors. We also learned from **Celine** that 'Bergen's Strawberry Sherbert' will be up for more awards at the Denver AVSA convention as will be **Hawley's 'Gene Garner'** and 'Little Mountain', **Fredette's 'Abigail Adams'** and **Elley's 'Snowfire'** . . . **Mrs. R. E. Schroeder**, 217 Andrew Avenue, Dwight, IL 60420 delighted at the great response she received from the March AVM for new members and mighty glad African violet growers are learning that there's an **Illinois AVS**. "Just in case some of you missed the article and want to join the **Illinois AVS**, please contact me," she said . . . **Bud Woodruff** taking over the presidency of the **Border Cities AVC** of Detroit, MI and hoping the club will have a lot of new members at their meeting, the second Monday at 8 p.m. in the Dom Polaski Hall, 54501 E. McNichols at Buffalo in Detroit . . . **Mary Spry Rohrlich**, 329 Southwood Circle, Syosset, NY 11791, trying to find a small plant or two leaves of the plant 'Spry', which happens to be her maiden name. "My father grows plants down in Florida," she said. "He's 75 years old and I'd like to surprise him with 'Spry'." If you have or know of such a plant, please contact **Mrs. Rohrlich** . . . **Frances McManus**, 16315 Dalmalley Lane, Dallas, TX 75248 also trying to find an old cultivar. She wants to locate 'TV Cut Velvet', introduced by **Margaret Vallin** in 1955. The plant has a dark wavy leaf with a red double blossom with a green edge. Do you have one or know who does? . . . Lots of people find fish emulsion good for their violets. Now comes **Stim-U-Plant, Inc.**, with another all organic high-quality fish emulsion and has placed it on the market as **Stim-U-Plant Fish Emulsion**,

which is said to be completely deodorized and mixes quickly with water . . . **Cecile Ambler**, who served as a delegate to the Austin AVSA Convention from the **AVS of the East Bay, Inc.**, says she picked up the following "goodies" at the convention: Spring is the best time for leaf cuttings; bonemeal as a long term fertilizer produces sturdy growth without root burn; and "Fruit Freeze" is a good material with which to bathe plants' She learned from **Mrs. J. Crisafulli**, an excellent grower from Belchertown, MA, that miniatures respond to disbudding up to four months before show time. "She gets no bad effect," **Cecile** explained, "and has had 50 to 60 blooms on a single plant. That I would like to see!" . . . **Beverly Renaudin**, a consistent winner at AV shows in New Orleans, admits she owes all her knowledge to her mother, **Marian Magee**. "I can remember when she was living in Dallas and formerly a member of the First AVS of Dallas," **Beverly** said, "Mother used to bring violets to me and as soon as she left New Orleans to go home, I would throw all the plants away. Little did I know that one day I would get 'hooked' for life. Without her constant teaching and help I would never have made it. We are like two kids when it comes to show time. When I win, she says, 'I've taught you well'" . . . **Jan MacDonald** of Brownwood still talking about the AVSA convention in Austin declaring, "It was great to meet **John and Jill Cain** from Hong Kong and the **Phipps and Kosowans** from Canada," she said. "It was especially a treat for me to get a chance to meet so many of the AVSA Board of Directors and the Commercial people" . . . **Rita Sendic**, 25-24 Berdan Ave., Fair Lawn, NJ 07410, looking for a leaf or plant of **Lyon's 'Glamour Doll'**, a full double, blush pink, shading to rose pink with dark red-backed foliage. She'd be glad to pay for it or exchange for another variety, so if you have 'Glamour Doll' let her know . . . **Mrs. William Zane** of Clearwater, FL getting quite a surprise and a thrill, too, when she was called to the speaker's table at the Austin AVSA convention and presented with a Life membership from her husband . . . The **Vancouver AVC** celebrating its 25th birthday this year and especially proud of 92-year-old **Mrs. Mabel Gledhill**, who is still a member, and **Pat Colquhoun**, who became a member in 1955 and is still involved in all aspects of the club work. Now they're wondering what the next 25 years will bring . . . Congratulations, too, to the **Union County Chapter, AVS** of New Jersey on its beautiful violet-

covered "Quarter Century History", prepared for the chapter's 25th anniversary show and dedicated to **Max Maas** an honorary member, for his many contributions over the years. Other honorary members are **Mrs. Sara Suell**, **Glenn Hudson** and **Mabel Hudson** . . . Readers, when you write to any of the AVSA officials or advertisers and ask them ques-

tions, please send them a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) if you want a reply. Postage rates are getting higher and higher and it's almost impossible to answer so many queries without involving much cost. And that goes for me too . . . especially for returning slides and pictures. . . **FLASH:** Another named variety, '**Little Jim**', to receive a special award at the Denver convention.

Seasonable Suggestions

Anne Tinari
2325 Valley Road — Box 190
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

As we swing into November certain signals appear on your African violets and you should heed them. Now is your opportunity to prepare your plants for the long winter months ahead. Examine closely all plants that need repotting, any plant stalk that rises above the pot rim, resembling a long neck or growth that makes the plant proportion unsightly, could be considered for repotting. You may not necessarily need a larger pot, but attention is needed and this is your warning signal, to remove the plant from the pot, remove soil from the bottom without injury to the root, place the plant lower in the pot, use fresh soil to fill in. The plant will now look in proper growing proportion.

Remember the guidelines for pot size. Our Judges Handbook suggests using 1/3 size pot for the diameter of a plant; the example being, a plant measuring 9" in diameter is comfortable in a 3" size pot. A geranium or tall pot is not necessary in growing our favorite plant. Squatty 3" or 4" pots suit this plant that has a shallow root better. Using the proper pot size is most important.

A pot too large seems to hinder proper even growth and floriferousness. A large pot can hold excessive amounts of soil and water that can be detrimental to the plant. Plants that are in too small a pot can have their feeder roots severely damaged and dry out sooner than they should. Pots of any kind should have proper drainage, clay, plastic or ceramic can be used without problems if drainage is available. If you plan to use the Aquamatic type pot or Swift's self-watering pot, follow the manufacturers' directions very carefully. They are included with the pot to help you succeed in growing plants using this method. If you plan to grow plants in wick-fed pots then may I suggest you review a good descriptive article on this procedure which appeared in the *African Violet Magazine* written by Neva Anderson in 1972, Volume 24, No. 4, Page 12. Any

pot you plan to use, especially if they are not new, should be thoroughly scrubbed and cleaned with soap and water or even a mild detergent to insure safety from contamination.

Did you do your homework on the soil you plan to use? It should be one preferably that you have used with success, one that is pasteurized to kill most of the harmful bacteria. Soil should be of good consistency, firm but light enough to allow water and air to penetrate through it. Use charcoal either in your soil mixture or I prefer a fine layer at the bottom of the pot. This will help soil to keep from getting sour and also be an excellent area for fibrous roots to imbed themselves to establish a good root system. When potting do not pound the soil, but place plant in center of pot, then gently fill in with the new soil without difficulty; tap the pot lightly to settle the soil and reduce air pockets that may exist. The crown of your plant should not be placed too deeply in the pot but the center and petioles should be even with the pot top. If placed too deeply crown rot can set in and if set up too high plant will be out of proportion and appear unbalanced.

After potting, water lightly with caution. There is such a temptation to overwater as plants can wilt slightly after repotting, fibrous roots may have been disturbed and need time to adjust in the new soil. Keep plants only slightly moist to the touch and they should soon recover.

If plants need repotting consider these cooler days a good time to attend to them; after severely hot weather is over and cold temperatures have not yet begun. If done carefully this process can be most interesting and rewarding with possibilities of better groomed plants and greater floriferousness.

The revised **AFRICAN VIOLET HANDBOOK FOR JUDGES AND EXHIBITORS** is available for \$3 from the AVSA office.

YOUR LIBRARY

Harvey L. Stone
51 Peach Highlands
Marblehead, MA 01945



It is time we should be growing and grooming our plants for competition at the Denver convention. Don't forget we have a couple of extra months to do this, as well as to set aside the necessary funds to enable us to attend—hope you're doing both!

I hope those of you who have seen our 1978 Convention programs from Austin, TX were pleased with them. I was unavoidably delayed in getting them to the AVSA Knoxville Office because of duplication problems. If anyone was inconvenienced by this delay I apologize and hope you have already requested one for another time.

The comment sheets which we ask you to fill out and return to the AVSA Knoxville office are meant for constructive criticism. Let me give you two examples of comments received recently:

1. On the program, "Gateway to Violets" from our St. Louis Convention last year: "Very unsatisfactory—most slides too dark". "The best slides we've ever seen".

2. Mrs. Lovell, in the Knoxville Office tried typing the short commentary for "A Portrait of Variegated Foliage" as an experiment, and requested comments from those using them: "We really liked the cards instead of sheets. Much easier to read and handle". "The sheets are easier to keep track of rather than the index cards". I guess it shows that we can't please everybody all the time! We keep trying, though!

In response to many suggestions on the comment sheets, have you noticed that the commentaries have been shortened this year? We've tried to make them easier to read and understand. Work on commentaries on the older programs will be undertaken when possible!

Many of you have asked for general views of the shows, for slides showing the staging process, and other facets of the shows. Only a lack of photographers prevented our first steps in this direction at Austin this year. Perhaps we can do this at Denver. One club has expressed interest in possibly preparing a program illustrating the conduct of a show from start to finish—staging, entries, registration, placing the plants, judging, viewing the prize winners, tearing the show down, you name it! I hope this will become a reality.

Some have commented that the slides are of plants that are no longer available. We are trying to arrange for a brand new, up-to-date program on "Violet

Troubles" and another on "Arrangements." These are in the future, not this year I'm afraid. Our Mini-Mam has promised one on the minis.

A cassette commentary is now available, on request, with each of the Austin programs—only one cassette to each program to start off with, though "Violets At The Alamo" has two sets of slides and there are five of "Violets Deep in the Heart of Texas". This is purely experimental up through June 1, 1979. There will be no extra charge except a slight increase for postage because of the extra weight. We welcome your comments on this and, if enough favorable ones come in, we'll present it to the Board of Directors at the Denver meeting for a decision as to whether or not it should be continued, and/or expanded, and to establish suitable charges for the extra service. One of our sister organizations requires a substantial deposit for each program and \$7.50 additional charge for those with cassettes. If you are interested and have access to a reasonably good cassette recorder, why not request one of these? Remember, there is only one of each, so if demand should be great, many will be disappointed. It is better to specify a second choice. Of course, if demand should warrant early enough, a second cassette will be made available.

Keep those comments coming in. If you think you know how we can do a thing better than at present, write us in detail.

May your Holidays be Happy Ones!

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Our president, Gene Garner, welcomes the following new names to our "family" of Life Members: L. A. Chiew, 140 Carr St., West Perth, W. Australia 6005; Mrs. H. G. Cook, 1505 Corley, Beaumont, TX 77701; Mrs. Judy Fragua, 3506 1st, Brownwood, TX 76801; Mrs. Marian D. Fryberg, 151 Center St., New Milford, NJ 07646; Mrs. Lorraine Pierce, Rt. 3, Box 250 A, La Wanda Hills, Klamath Falls, OR 97601; Mrs. Alvina H. Suder, 12421 Henrietta Rd., Largo, FL 33540.

The revised **AFRICAN VIOLET HANDBOOK FOR JUDGES AND EXHIBITORS** is available for \$3 from the AVSA office.

Experiments Pay Off!

Mrs. Albert (Gertrude) Blouw
822 Elliott Street
Grand Rapids, MI 49507

Have you ever experimented with something and then been very happy with the results!

My experience with wicking violets and espicias has paid off to the extent blossoms form sooner on small plants and are larger and more vivid.

In hot weather my plants dried out so very fast, my time was spent mostly just watering and no time for grooming my plants. So, I decided to start wicking and find out whether it would save time and also produce bigger and better plants. It did just that! In wick watering, the plant not only produces blooms sooner, but the leaves grow more vivid, larger and more symmetrical. In sooner time than you can imagine, the plant must be transplanted in next size pot because of the fast growth.

I remove stolons from espicias and insert them in a pot with a wick and it starts right off and grows bushy and less lanky than without wicking. I always had good results in growing espicias, but never obtained a lot of bloom.

My wicks are made up of seven-inch length strands of Sayelle 100% DuPont Acrylic Yarn, 4-ply, 4-strands. I use white yarn as I feel the dye in yarn keeps it from absorbing water as rapidly. For babies or miniatures and semiminiatures, I separate the 4-ply strands and use one of these threads for 2½ or 2½-inch pots. I am also wicking my leaves and suckers too, with one strand of the 4-ply yarn. In other words, the 4-ply yarn in the way it is purchased is separated into four threads which will put up four babies or four miniatures. The miniatures will go into bloom more rapidly and the blooms are very colorful.

The three-inch pots require the 4-ply yarn cut into about 7-inch lengths. It is inserted about ¾ way up into the pot. I insert it into the bottom hole of the pot and pull it up into the inside of the pot and hold it at the top with the left hand when inserting the plant. Then, from the bottom, pull the wick down so that it is about ¾ into the pot. Do not cover the hole in the bottom of the pot with crock, screen or anything else. One-half pound margarine plastic tubs are ideal for the reservoirs. Also the Cool-Whip pound containers work well for the four-inch pot. The one pound cottage cheese containers are also very suitable for the four-inch pot reservoirs.

The 4-ply yarn cut into seven-inch lengths are also good for the 4-inch pots. A hole about an inch in diameter in the reservoirs. I have been using Plant

Marvel, Hyponex and Rapid-Gro.

In order to be successful with wick watering, it is very necessary to use a very light soil mixture. I prepare my own mix using, a small amount of African Soil Mix, Ready Earth, Canadian Peat, perlite and vermiculite with a small amount of Super Phosphate added.

Crown and root rot will occur if the soil mixture is too heavy, as the feeder roots are kept too soggy and cannot take the excessive moisture.

I have been growing violets and gesneriads for several years, but must confess, my growing has improved immensely since wick watering.

Anyone can go on a month's vacation without worrying about their plants, if a large enough reservoir is used.

One week of each month, I give the plants clear water (without fertilizer) and water from the top to wash out all fertilizer salts which have accumulated.

When transplanting the babies (which have bloomed in the 2½ inch pot), I remove the one strand yarn and insert the 4-ply yarn into the three-inch pot.

In the spring and fall of the year, I always experienced a lot of crown and root rot, as the humidity would be high and the plant stayed too moist when watering. Now that my plants are wick fed, I haven't had any crown or root rot at all.

The purchase price of a skein of yarn is so inexpensive that I do not use the yarn over again, if the plant dies. I always use new yarn every time I plant.

I have been wick watering for two years now and have won several awards at our Michigan State African Violet Show and it is all to the credit of wicking my plants.

Why not try to experiment on a few plants as I did and be amazed at the results? It brings good reward and satisfaction in your growing. Do try a few plants and compare the growing. It is fun! Good luck!

WILL YOU JOIN?

By Rhoda Retkovis

You're never too young or too old . . . To join a so-ci-e-ty . . . Whose pleasures will unfold . . . When you a member be . . . African Violet Clubs there are . . . To which you may belong . . . You'll find them near and far . . . Join, you can't go wrong! . . . Some members grow a few . . . Most of them grow a lot . . . Always learning something new . . . What you should do or should not . . . AVSA slides are great . . . Speakers are just fine . . . Workshops set you straight . . . At the "Violet Show", you'll shine . . . If a violet lover you be . . . And, want to share this love . . . Join a group, and you'll soon see . . . You fit like a hand in glove.



Mrs. C. S. Hawley
2432 Nottingham Rd.
Columbus, OH 43211
November thru March

It is early morning and I have come to my "Secret Place" to reflect and to delight in the sounds of daybreak: the bird's song, the chirping insects and the soft rustle of tiny animals as they scurry about. There is a rock upon which I rest; a part of a granite ledge which overlooks a wooded bower beneath it. Everywhere it is alive with an abundance of tiny infant trees, lacy ferns, soft mosses and wild flower vegetation. I glance away and my eyes fall on the white bark of the birch, the shimmering leaves of the aspen and above them, resembling giant stewards, are the pines, spruce and balsam fir. I become submerged in their pungent fragrance. Then out of the memories of my childhood rush the immortal and long forgotten words of Robert Louis Stevenson:

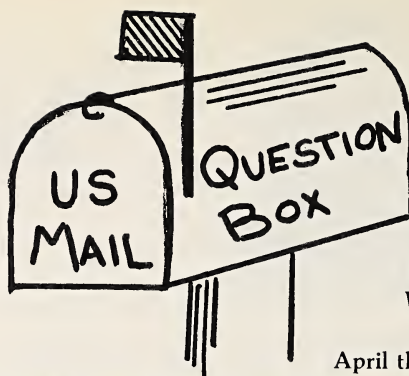
"The world is so full of a number of things,
I am sure we should all be as happy as Kings."

How sad that the fickle mind of man can so easily forget and, in his expediency, rush to destroy and extinguish parts of this good green earth and its bounty. Our finite eyes, knowing but one moment in time, see no meaning in Nature's myriad diversifications and, alas, 'tis so easy to destroy! But—what is this that intrudes upon my meditations? It is a searching mosquito hungering for a victim! This time I will resist the urge to "swat" and instead rush back to the house, leaving him for a hungry bird or that "whirring" darning needle near by.

Your questions this time have sent me scrambling for more knowledge wherever it could be found. I accept your challenges and am earnestly trying to give you guidance in your violet growing.

Question: I am a new member and I would like to know about "forced growing" as mentioned in the article "Portraits" on page 13 of the June, 1978 Magazine. Also, what causes one-year-old plants to rot at soil level? I wick feed; my lights are on 12 hours a day; and there is no salt build-up.

Answer: Light intensity can be increased by providing a longer photoperiod of 14 to 16 hours a day and lowering the light to 10 inches above the plants. This extra spurt of light energy requires extra water and an increase in the amount of fertilizer to sustain the necessary photosynthesis for the accelerated growth. This is "forced growing" in my thinking.



P. O. Box 154
W. Southport,
Maine 04576

April thru November

Good strong healthy plants will respond with larger and prolific blooms as a rule. It is used by very experienced growers, at times, as the final process in preparing their show plants.

The stem-rot of which you write is, in my opinion, Rhizoctonia, a fungus that lives in the soil. At times it is dormant; at other times it becomes active. When the soil becomes over-saturated and, if this organism is present, it will invade the stem of a plant and eventually cause a condition such as you described. Terrachlor or Benomyl (Benlate) are fungicide drenches which will destroy it in the soil. It will not revive the diseased plant, however. Your U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Co-operative Extension Agent is your best source of advice on the use of these products. I would consult him first before using either of them. The best way, of course, to control any harmful fungus or bacteria is by using sterilized soil and following good sanitary growing practices; clean hands, clean pots, etc.

Question: I have a young plant that has formed buds and will blossom in a few days. Each bud is at the end of a short stem and has a small leaf growing on either side of it. There are no pedicels. The rest of the plant seems healthy; it gets the same amount of light and care that the others receive. Is this a sport or is there another cause for this?

Answer: There are some varieties which do not have more than one or two blooms per stem. However, the stems are usually not short and they do have pedicels. I believe that the blossoms on your plant are not fully developed. The fact that it is a small plant, just coming into bloom, could be a factor in its lack of development. But I am more inclined to think, that it is a poor root system. Consequently the plant is not getting the needed nutrients. The roots could have been loosed by over-watering or by fertilizing when the plant is too dry. This is so easily done with young plants in small pots. I would replant it in fresh soil and withhold the fertilizer, using just clear water, until new roots have been established. Then begin a weak fertilizer program (1/4 teaspoon per gallon of water) each time that you water. I anticipate that eventually normal blooms will begin to appear.

Question: I would like to try a new soil mix. Can you recommend one?

Answer: I do not use commercially prepared soil mixes and so, from my own experience, cannot recommend any of them to you. There are many good ones available, however. Just be very sure, when you purchase one, that it is marked "Sterilized" and contains some sphagnum peat moss. Also, make sure that the bag is air-tight and it is not damaged in any way. Perhaps you would like to try the formula which I have used for some years. It is practically sterile and I have never felt the need to pasteurize at any time.

I use a one pound coffee can as a unit of measure:

3 cans of Sphagnum Peat Moss

2 cans of Vermiculite

1 can of Perlite

¼ can of Ground Charcoal

1 Tablespoon of Ground Limestone (Dolomite is preferable)

1 Tablespoon of Bone Meal

This mixture should be well moistened before using. Peat is very dry and it will take a quantity of warm water to completely dampen it for use. It should not be soggy, however. I prefer to grow my violets in clay pots but for plastic pots I recommend an additional can of Perlite. You will notice that there is no fertilizer in this mixture with the exception of bonemeal. I compensate for this by using a constant feed program of ¼ teaspoon of high analysis fertilizer to a gallon of water. (20-20-20, 12-31-14, 15-30-14) etc; one which gives the analysis of trace elements on the label is preferred).

Question: What are nematodes and how do plants act if attacked by such? What treatment, if any, is there? From what I can find to read this is a root problem. Is it?

Answer: There are many types of nematodes but the one which attacks African violets is called root-knot nematode. The first symptom of an infestation is when a plant begins to show a lack of vigor. Soon it will begin to wilt and finally die. These creatures cannot be seen with the naked eye. A plant which has become a host to these microscopic and parasitic worms will, because of its weakened condition, also become susceptible to any other disease organism that might be present in the soil. The female nematode will lay her eggs inside the roots and stems of African violets; then she injects a fluid around this egg-mass. This provides food for the larvae as they hatch out and begin to grow. These masses are quite easily seen in the form of nodules or enlarged roots. When the larvae hatch they enter the soil as long hairlike worms and attack other roots, eventually destroying the entire root system and the plant. If you notice any nodules or thickening along the roots

of your plants then you can be pretty sure of a root-knot nematode problem. There are nemacides available but government regulations prohibit some of them for home use. The best thing to do, if they are found, is to immediately destroy the diseased plant; place it in a plastic bag and put it in a closed container for disposal. Prevention is the best method for controlling them and this means sterilized soil, sanitary storage areas, all benches, saucers, pots and tools. Keep them clean by washing them in a strong solution of Clorox.

Question: I grow my African violets under fluorescent lights. The plants are placed in trays filled with perlite and water. I have noticed green algae and an orange-brown mildew spreading on the perlite surface. Is there any way of getting rid of these two organisms without replacing the perlite?

Answer: Algae are chlorophyll-bearing plants that do not form true roots, stems or leaves. There are many species of them and their colors include the green, orange and brown that you mention. Under fluorescent lights and with the constant fertilizing and high humidity necessary to growing violets, algae will form on pots, soil, perlite etc. It is quite unsightly but not necessarily harmful to plants. A weak solution of Clorox (1 tablespoon to a gallon of water) would probably control it. The plants must be removed from the trays then the perlite completely covered with this solution. Allow it to stand for a couple of hours and then drain it off before replacing your plants. In my opinion, perlite is not the most satisfactory material to use as drainage in trays under lights. I would like to suggest that you read the article "Handy Helpers in Horticulture", on page 4 of the March, 1978 issue of the African Violet Magazine. Perhaps you would like to consider this method as an alternative.

Question: This past winter the old farm house we live in was, at times, cold (47 to 50 degrees) at night; daytime highs were low 50's to middle 60's. Some varieties had leaves that curled and looked burned. (Frost-bite?) Others looked completely wilted and they never recovered and some have developed, in their spring growth, what appears to be multi-crowns. Some, which don't show these crowns, have very dense, stunted crown growth. I see no signs of pest problems. How can I handle these crown problems? My plants are grown in natural light.

Answer: African violets have little tolerance for temperatures which drop below 50 degrees. They survive at these temperatures but they will develop symptoms such as the ones which you describe: loss of center leaves, curled and stunted ones with brownish colored rings or burned edges. Now that the warm weather has returned, your plants are beginning to respond again. The multiple crowns are

caused by the loss of the original center crown. With great care, select the most vigorous one of these "suckers" and with small tweezers remove all the others. Do it as soon as you can before they become too large. The stunted leaves can be removed but I suggest that you leave them on the plant until good growth is manifesting itself and they show a good center crown. There is a "law of the minimum" that states that when one factor of growth is less than the others a plant will grow only at that lessened rate of growth. When temperatures drop then this becomes the minimum factor; a reduction in light, water and fertilizer will permit growth but at a much slower rate and with less distortion. However, this applies to temperatures of 55 degrees or above; lower than that violets will just not grow. They will survive if the low temperatures do not remain over an extended period of time. They will show damage to the leaves and crown in all probability.

Question: I began experimenting with wick watering and recently I started to add water to the wick container and in the bottom there were very fine, stringlike white worms from 1/8" to 1/2" long that on close observation would move about in the water. These insects could not possibly be seen on the root system or in the soil but in the clear water were detectable. This seems to be something that has traveled down the wick into the water. I find this condition only present on older plants of eight months to 12 months old. There is no trouble on the young ones. I am alarmed that it might be a type of root-nematode even though there is no swelling of the root or root knots. I use a commercial sterile soil mixture. I also use a systemic once every six months. A month ago I made my summer application so this is a problem the systemic did not reach. What is it?

Answer: (Editor's Note - This question was personally answered in two separate letters and they are as follows:

#1 - Although you do not mention this I am assuming that your plants look healthy. So I am of the opinion that the common root-knot nematode which attacks African violets is not your problem. Frankly, I am completely puzzled. I have written to the Dept. of Entomology at The Ohio State Research and Development Center in Wooster, OH for an educated opinion and advice that might be helpful. In the meantime, I think it would be wise to separate those affected plants from the rest of your collection; remove the wicks and place them over individual saucers. Leach these violets well and if there has been a passage of two months since your last soil treatment then repeat this once again. The solution in the reservoirs which you have been using should be very carefully discarded. However, I advise the use of rubber gloves during all this procedure and then

washing your hands afterwards also. Do not use these containers again until they have been cleansed in a strong Clorox solution.

(The following letter was received from Dr. Richard K. Lindquist in response to my request for information)

#2 - "I could not detect any problem with the African violets themselves in the copy of the letter which you sent to me; just the fact that small worms were in the reservoir. Therefore, I don't think that any control is necessary at this point. Furthermore, these creatures are probably not insects or nematodes, but an earthworm relative that is almost always present in plant material or in soil. The longer the plant is around, the greater the number of these beasts that appear. (Nematodes are generally microscopic in size and cannot be seen without going through a rather difficult process of examination.) These worms are very difficult to kill with commonly used insecticides, so I don't feel there is much that can be done other than what you have suggested. The one possible exception to what you have suggested is that I don't really think it is necessary to separate the plants from the rest of her collection."

"The writer mentioned that she used a certain soil mix and that she understood it was a sterile mixture. She is right in that it was probably pasteurized prior to its being put into bags but this does not prevent organisms from re-invading the soil, etc. Therefore, just because it starts out sterile does not mean that it will remain that way forever.

"On the other hand, if these creatures are actually appearing to cause harm to the plants, she should collect some of the creatures and get them identified through her local cooperative extension service as soon as possible. This would be the only way that someone would know for certain what they were and what, if anything, could be done about them."

PRO QUID QUO

Since the June issue I have received two communications concerning containers used for hydroponic culture. The one which appeared on "Crockett's Victory Garden" is called "Deco Soil-free System" and the other one is "The Hydroculture Soilless Plantsystem".

These are decorative containers with reservoirs for the nutrient solution. The kits contain a special formulated fertilizer and porous earth stones which support the plant and provide a medium for the capillary action. They have been proven to be quite satisfactory especially for the amateur grower. I sincerely hope that this additional information will be helpful to those readers who are interested in trying it.

By the time that you read this I will have returned to Columbus and I will be waiting for your questions at: 2432 Nottingham Rd., Columbus, OH 43221

1978 BEST VARIETIES

*Mrs. Leon Fiedler
R. I, Prescott, WI 54021*

The list was compiled from 1,749 individual lists. Thank you to each member who sent us a list.
No.
of

Votes Variety — Registration No. — Hybridizer

487	Tommie Lou 1744 (Oden)	116	Granger's Regina 2716 (Granger)
460	Tina 2680 (Maas)	115	Butterfly White 1983 (Lyon)
420	Miriam Steele 2276 (Granger)	115	Winter Grape 2789 (Fredette)
419	Garnet Elf 2339 (Granger)	114	Poodle Top 2053 (Tinari)
390	Rhapsodie Mars (Holtkamp)	113	Chanticleer 1386 (Granger)
387	Helene 2885 (Lyon)	113	Whirlaway 2210 (Lyon)
378	Ballet Lisa 2898 (Geo. J. Ball Inc.)	104	Ballet Anna 2890 (Geo. J. Ball Inc.)
352	Nancy Reagan 2161 (Rienhardt)	104	Brigadoon 2014 (Granger)
314	Ballet Marta 2899 (Geo. J. Ball Inc.)	104	Edith V. Peterson 2561 (Constantinov)
288	Granger's Serenity 2578 (Granger)	104	Wild Fire 1569 (Champion)
273	Happy Harold 2165 (Rienhardt)	103	Christi Love 2884 (Lyon)
270	Lullaby 1783 (Granger)	103	Like Wow Sport (Lyon)
266	Mary D. 2675 (Maas)	103	Mrs. Greg 2361 (V. Lorenzen)
235	Mark 3007 (Maas)	103	White Madonna 670 (Granger)
228	Lilian Jarrett 1060 (Tinari)	102	Rhapsodie Claudia (Holtkamp)
228	Rhapsodie Gigi (Holtkamp)	102	Sam (Lyon)
223	Top Dollar 2168 (Rienhardt)	100	Creekside Moonbeams (Mills)
219	Pixie Blue 2599 (Lyon)	95	Spring Deb 2348 (Granger)
201	Delft Imperial 1326 (Granger)	94	Granger's Cameo Queen 2863 (Granger)
198	Firebird 2018 (Granger)	93	Purple Crest (Granger)
197	Granger's Fashionaire 2223 (Granger)	92	Little Jim 3005 (Maas)
187	Granger's Eternal Snow 2573 (Granger)	92	Richter's Wedgewood 1140 (Richter)
187	Triple Threat 1989 (Lyon)	92	Ruffled Red 2679 (Maas)
183	Crimson Frost 2706 (Granger)	90	Joyfull (Lyon)
183	Rhapsodie Elfrieda (Holtkamp)	89	Richter's Step Up 2458 (Richter)
180	Sweet Mary 2489 (V. Lorenzen)	89	Rhapsodie Gisela (Holtkamp)
174	Jason 3004 (Maas)	88	Granger's Pink Nimbus 2869 (Granger)
168	Lavender Tempest 2709 (Granger)	88	Sparkle Plenty 2786 (Annalee Violetry)
161	Faith 2707 (Granger)	87	Strawberry Shortcake 1509 (Taylor)
161	The King 2680 (Maas)	86	Granger's Carefree 2221 (Granger)
160	Dbl. Black Cherry 1178 (Omaha AVC)	86	Granger's Sylvan Blue 2875 (Granger)
154	Becky 2669 (Maas)	84	After Dark 2117 (Richter)
152	Vern's Delight 2271 (V. Lorenzen)	84	Rhapsodie Neptune (Holtkamp)
151	Corpus Christi 3075 (Utz)	83	Granger's Pink Swan 2577 (Granger)
151	Like Wow 2329 (Lyon)	82	Amazing Grace 2688 (Mrs. Grace Soultis)
144	Dora Baker 2084 (V. Lorenzen)	82	Pink Viceroy 2714 (Granger)
143	The Parson's Wife 2317 (Rev. C. W. Blades)	79	Red Flame (Granger)
139	Emperor 1507 (Taylor)	79	Rhapsodie Denise (Holtkamp)
139	Wild Country 2729 (Lyon)	78	Cordelia 2466 (Lyon)
135	Coral Capers 2727 (Lyon)	78	Violet Trail 2468 (Lyon)
134	Starshine 2349 (Granger)	78	Wisteria 2056 (Tinari)
133	Frankie 2671 (Maas)	76	Lavender Delight 2342 (Granger)
132	Midget Bon Bon 2282 (Champion)	76	Pocono Mountain (DeSandis)
126	Rhapsodie Ruby (Holtkamp)	75	Flamingo 2670 (Maas)
124	Granger's Jim Dandy 2865 (Granger)	75	Sweet Honesty 2887 (Lyon)
124	Granger's Peach Frost 2216 (Granger)	74	Ann Slocumb 1907 (Lanigan)
118	Granger's Starburst 2784 (Granger)	74	Millie Blair 3020 (Granger)

IN MEMORIAM

BERVIE W. RAINES

Many of us in Tennessee lost a good African violet friend when Bervie W. Raines died. For me, I lost a mother as well as a violet teacher. I am Anita Raines Elliott. She taught me from the time I was young how to care for violets, teaching many little tips on growing and rooting. Mother taught me a lot about people by growing violets. One of her favorite sayings was, "Violets are like people."

Not only did her family and friends learn about violets but they learned about sharing. She shared her knowledge and know-how and also her leaves and plants.

During the early part of the 30 years or so that mother raised African violets, she belonged to the Chattanooga African Violet Club and won many ribbons and once had Queen of the Show. During the last several years she had gathered and raised several thousand violets. Dad had been enlisted to add lights and tables as the collection grew. As mother became weaker, Dad, again, was enlisted to care for them. Slowly, under careful tutoring Dad began, not only to water, but to transplant and divide plants and root leaves. She seemed to gather fresh strength from seeing a new plant bloom for the first time.

Although mother is no longer with us, she lingers with me daily. As I care for my growing number of plants, I hear her instructions and I see her smile at a new bloom. There are many memories that I have as a daughter, and thank goodness, I have many more cherished memories in a shared hobby — African violets.

BERT ROBICHAUD

The death of Bert Robichaud, a member of the Royal Saintpaulia Club of Sussex, N.B., Canada, brought deep regret to many of her friends in Canada and the United States. She will be remembered by many who attended the Atlanta, GA convention. Phyllis Hall, club associate, said: "We always enjoyed having her at our plant sales. She could sell more plants than anyone else. She was so bright and humorous. She will be greatly missed."

DO NOT REUSE SOIL

Make it a habit NOT to reuse soil. Any soil removed from the violet's root system during repotting should be rolled in newspaper and properly disposed. Do not practice false economy. If you reuse soil from one plant for another, you run the risk of transferring soil-borne pests.

- 73 Blue Sprite 2725 (Lyon)
- 73 Little Delight (Lyon)
- 73 Pixie Trail (Lyon)
- 72 Candy Lips 1461 (Lyon)
- 72 Granger's Blue Tempest 2571 (Granger)
- 70 Sweet Pixie 2195 (Swift)
- 68 Christmas Holly (Mrs. T. H. Trimble)
- 68 Duet (Richter)
- 68 Granger's Pinks a Poppin 1476 (Granger)
- 67 Granger's Monaco 2867 (Granger)
- 67 Granger's Peppermint 2227 (Granger)
- 67 Peak of Pink 1469 (Lyon)
- 67 Pink N' Ink (Lyon)
- 67 Trail Along (Lyon)
- 66 Ballet Eva 2893 (Geo. J. Ball Inc.)
- 66 Granger's Bandmaster 2567 (Granger)
- 65 Granger's Musetta 2575 (Granger)
- 64 French Lilac 2844 (Swifts)
- 64 Rhapsodie Jupiter (Holtkamp)
- 63 Rhapsodie Barbara (Holtkamp)
- 62 Blue Boy 41 (Armscoat & Rayston)
- 61 Jingle Bells (Richter)
- 61 Richter's Charm Song 1138 (Richter)
- 61 William Bruce 2131 (E. Fisher)
- 61 White Elf (Fischer)
- 57 Alouette 2787 (Irene Fredette)
- 57 Rhapsodie Candy (Holtkamp)
- 57 Softique 1957 (Richter)
- 57 Winter's Dream (Lyon)
- 56 Blue Storm 2464 (Lyon)
- 56 Orion 2069 (R. Anderson)
- 56 Plain and Fancy 2756 (Champion)
- 56 Sandra (Utz)
- 55 Edna Fischer 201 (Fischer)
- 55 Granger's Red Flair 2218 (Granger)
- 55 Seafoam 2024 (Granger)
- 54 Gotcha 2205 (Lyon)
- 54 Mister Gus 1905 (Cook)
- 54 Rhapsodie Audrey (Holtkamp)
- 54 Targeteer 2728 (Lyon)
- 53 Green Ice 2136 (Kolb)
- 53 Jennifer 2006 (Tinari)
- 53 Lyndy Lou 2170 (Rienhardt)
- 53 Midget Valentine 2524 (Champion)
- 53 Pixie Pink 2599 (Lyon)
- 52 Ballet Ulli 3001 (Geo. J. Ball Inc.)
- 52 Granger's Swiss Ballet 2579 (Granger)
- 52 Sailor's Dream (Kolb)
- 52 Shady Lady (Lyon)
- 51 Granada (Granger)
- 51 Little Red 3006 (Maas)
- 51 Tipt (Richter)
- 50 Coppertips (Granger)
- 50 Margaret Rose 2672 (Maas)
- 50 Nona Weber 1750 (Rose Knoll)
- 50 Sylvia 2767 (Maas)
- 50 Ting Blue 2110 (Lyon)

"Texas Style", the Best of Two Worlds

*Kenneth A. Bowman
24911 W. Pacific Coast Hwy.
Malibu, CA 90265*

ED. NOTE: The following article is a fascinating follow-up to Jodi Davis' article on "Texas Style" growing in the June 1978 AV Magazine, according to Pauline Bartholomew of Port Hueme, CA., who said: Mr. Bowman was Superintendent of Cultivation for the Department of Floriculture at UCLA for many years and now has an African violet nursery overlooking the Pacific Ocean. I have exchanged violet growing ideas with him for many years and a couple of years ago I mentioned my success with "Texas Style". Mr. Bowman set up experiments with this method in his propagating room and this year he converted much of the nursery to "Texas Style". This is an advantage to the nurseryman as rapid growth means faster turnover of stock and the novice grower goes home with a plant set up for foolproof watering. By taking the guesswork out of growing, the customers are pleased by their success and come back to add to their collections. I will always be grateful to Jodi Davis (and to "D.J." Lidiak who told me about it) for this unique potting style. I had achieved some measure of success before I ran across this method but nothing to equal what I'm doing now. The practicality of this system is unbeatable (you can water on a schedule) and the rewards are great: perfect show plants and top awards.

The good violet growers, both amateurs and professionals, have known for years that violets grow best when supplied with a soil medium providing both good aeration and an adequate supply of moisture for the roots. Many growers achieved this happy balance many years ago by the highly developed art of observation and skill of supplying moisture to a chosen soil mix. Whether the water was applied from the top or bottom was not significant.

More recently the vacuum type automatic planters have proven the same point to all growers who chose to try them. Recent converts cannot believe the results achieved by the use of these planters. Most are astounded that the soil is so moist and yet their plants thrive. Here is proof to everyone that a free access to water by the roots, along with adequate aeration, is the key to growing good violets. Fertilizers are necessary, of course, but many kinds may be used with great success once the proper dilution is arrived at. These planters require no skill or "art" on the part of the grower.

We have also known for years that sand culture (sand, gravel, perlite, etc. as a means to support the plant) will produce most plants more rapidly than soil culture when the proper nutritional program is carried out. The success of sand culture is due to the fact that the roots of the plant do not have to compete with the capillary holding power of the conventional soil mix. There is little or no capillary holding of water in sand culture, the spaces between particles being so large that virtually all the water drains out due to its weight (pull of gravity). But sand culture has its problems in that solutions must be changed frequently or that a chemist has to be on the job to monitor the solutions daily.

The "Texas Style" of growing provides the roots of the plant with a soil mix which supplies a means of physical support, some moisture, some aeration, and most importantly a nutrient holding capacity where major element nutrients are held, and especially

minor elements not supplied by the fertilizer solution used. But the plant roots must compete in a physical way (the particles hold moisture in varying degrees dependent upon the moisture content of the soil) and that is where the competition between the ability of the roots to absorb moisture and the holding capacity of the soil enters in.

Enter now the "Texas Style" where a shallow layer of soil is placed on top of, and in contact with, an equal or greater depth of very porous material such as grits, coarse silica sand, perlite, etc. Water and fertilizer solution are supplied from below to this porous layer which must have enough capillary capacity to lift the water up to the soil level. It is at this interface of the soil and porous underlayer that the miracle takes place, giving us the phenomenal growth noted by so many. And again, no watering art or skill is needed.

At the interface, water and nutrients are available to the roots of the plants without competition from the capacity of the soil to hold them. So the plant is benefitting from the best features of sand culture, without its concomitant inconveniences, plus the benefits of the soil mix to support the plant and supply it with needed nutrient elements perhaps not all available in the solution supplied in the saucer in which the pot sits. The perlite or sand or grits should not be allowed to dry out entirely or the small roots which have penetrated it will burn off and new ones will have to be formed in order to derive the above mentioned benefits. In my opinion, aeration is not the significant factor involved in the success of the "Texas Style". Many of us have tried, with equal results, pots without side holes and aeration can be provided by other means such as using a more porous soil mix. Naturally the "Texas Style" does provide good aeration due to the shallow layer of soil used and especially when a porous soil mix is used. Aeration is needed, and is very important, but it is the free access to water and nutrients provided at the

interface that is the unique feature of "Texas Style" and provides the phenomenal growth we have learned to expect from it. And all this without complications.

On Being An Affiliate Delegate

*Cecile L. Ambler
Orinda, CA*

When your audience exclaims with pleasure and comments that your slide show makes them feel that they, too, had attended the national convention, you feel good, even as you sigh with relief.

Such was my gratifying experience when I gave the third and last part of my report on the Austin Convention. Ruth Peck, president of the AVS of the East Bay, had proposed that the club sponsor a delegate to the convention. The membership agreed, stipulating that in return said delegate present a thorough report.

This year my husband, Louis, and I were the only members planning to attend. Some financial assistance would be welcome but did we want the responsibility? Finally, I agreed. I am glad that I did. It gave that added impetus to get up early, get to and hear every word at the judges' course, each and every workshop, the lectures and, of course, the show. I found myself listening more attentively to conversations, asking questions and making notes.

Back home, at our next meeting, the usual quick sketch of a glorious experience plus the eagerly awaited names of the award winning varieties and the 1978 introductions satisfied the membership and allowed time for notes to be digested and slides finished, identified and arranged.

Once in order, these notes were duplicated so that every member could receive a copy. This gave those who had never been able to attend a national convention, some idea of the wide coverage of all that interests African violet growers. It also answered some of the specific concerns I knew existed locally. What an individual gets out of a lecture may not be as detailed as the lecture itself but will stress known problems among one's associates and information that may be new to them.

As Louis is also an avid grower, shower and participant in AV Club affairs, I could double check my impressions. Fortunately, he has an excellent memory as he lost his own notes, probably while operating as camera man, where he was of invaluable assistance to me. I am good enough at outdoor scenes and candid shots of people but hopeless where

special readings and accurate settings are needed.

So the third and last part of the report was a joint effort and covered everything from Texas Bluebonnets and the spray of the paddle wheels to lecturers, demonstrations and, of course, The Show. These shots were generously interspersed with candid shots of people. Of great interest to my audience were pictures of nationally known individuals, many of whom are only names of plants. They also enjoyed seeing members of our Northern California Council of African Violet Clubs caught having a good time on the tours and in earnest study of exhibits or equally earnest conversation.

To quote our last newsletter, "By investing a little money to help pay expenses, we received a bountiful interest . . ."

If your club wants detailed information, answers to some of its questions, personal reactions to the latest developments, do consider an item "Convention Delegate" in your next budget. Be sure your delegate knows what you expect to get in return. Be sure she or he can entertain as well as inform those who must stay home.

BE CAREFUL WITH FLUORESCENT TUBES

*Dr. Alvin W. Shultz
Suite 212, 4121 West 83rd Street
Prairie Village, KS 66208*

This information, concerning the disposal and treatment of fluorescent tubes was published in a scientific journal and needs to be heeded by all our African violet growers:

If a tube is broken, the powdery dust that coats the glass is very toxic. If this powder should enter into a cut, the cut will not heal and will require surgical treatment. Also if the dust is inhaled, it will have harmful effects upon the lungs.

If you should accidentally break a tube, extreme care should be taken in picking up the broken pieces as not to cut yourself on any of the sharp particles. It would be more advisable to use a pair of tweezers for the pick up. A good soap and water rinse is also advised.

POPULARITY OF ACHIMENES

Recently there has been a great revival of the popularity of achimenes, resulting in production of many new varieties. Achimenes' decorative foliage and long, prolific and colorful summer bloom made them tremendously popular in Europe 100 years ago, according to Paul Arnold, owner of the world's largest private collection of achimenes.



Musings from the "Mini-Mam"

Mrs. Sidney (Ellie) Bogin
Chr. Miniature and Semimini Class
39 Boyd Street
Long Beach, NY 11561

SPRING SHOW WINNER:

Utah AVS, Salt Lake City, Utah, Princess - mini - 'Midget Midnight' - Ilene Jorgensen.

Ethel Champion's 'Sapphire Trinket' keeps its light variegation right through the summer. 'Trinket White Caps' single bloom drops too quickly. 'Trinket Magic' is eye-catching with a single blue and a good wavy geneva edge. The blooms stay on for a long time. However, 'Misty Trinket' is my favorite. Ser-rated variegated edged leaves with a profusion of a beautiful pale misty pink bloom. I just love looking at it.

Ernie Fisher of Canada — 'Little Dolly' was a big disappointment to all the mini committee. We all had the same widely spaced leaves with sparse bloom. 'Daintiness' is another story. It is an adorable and dainty lavender and white double on perfect tiny tailored foliage.

Annalee Violetry — 'Mini Minx' and 'Irish Angel' have turned out well. 'Mini Minx' is a lovely flat growing girl with perky double amethyst blooms. 'Irish Angel' is a really different semi. It has tailored leaves with a profusion of small blue single flowers with an incurved green edge. The bloom size is not large but there are so many of them they look like a bouquet.

New from Tinari's are 'Mini Fantasy' and 'Mini Blue'. They are both tailored and heavy blooming, with good size blooms. 'Mini Fantasy' is a semi-double light lavender with dots and splashes of pink and purple, and extremely attractive.

'Teensy Weensie' from Don Baker has dark small tailored leaves and myriads of rosy lavender bells flecked with purple.

My newest loves are from Lyndon Lyon. A tiny, tiny pocket-sized trailer called 'Pip Squeak'. It measures about two inches across and has 12 perky, tiny little pink bells standing erect. The leaves are about the size of a pinkie nail (mine). Another trailer seedling that I am waiting for a name on is exceptionally good. The number is P55D and it is absolutely the last word. It is compact growing and does not need to be pinched. It is a mini, larger than 'Pip Squeak' with leaves about 1/2" long. They are beautifully variegated with pink and green that held all summer. It blooms heavily with a bright rosy pink double. It did take a long time to bloom. It seemed it first had to produce a lot of crowns. However, it is

worth the wait and is a real must have. I hope by now it has been named.

We are working on a new list and hopefully it will be out before the first of the year. The culture section will be enlarged and it will cover a span of 15 years instead of 10. The price will probably be \$2.50. With the increase in postage it now costs us 40 cents to send a list. All lists are sent third class which normally takes two to three weeks for delivery.

There are still some 1975 lists with the 1976 and 1977 supplements available at this writing. The price is \$2.00 with all checks or money orders to be made out to AVSA. Canadian members, please send U. S. postal orders. Those who just want the supplement, send a large stamped self-addressed envelope.

A Happy green growing year to all of you.



WINNING PLANTS—These are some of the beautiful African violets shown at the First Arlington AVS' show in Arlington, TX. Pictured are, left to right: Peggy Rainey, who won the AVSA 1st Collection Award (gold rosette) and several others; Edna Haugh, club president, and Mickey Gilson, winner of the best in show with 'Starshine', the AVSA 2nd Best Collection and several other awards.

Affiliate 'appenings

(NOTE TO PUBLICITY CHAIRMEN: Please, when sending typed articles concerning your shows, send the original copy to the EDITOR — not a carbon copy or copy-machined material.)

Also PLEASE follow style used in following articles — then these do not have to be re-written for the Magazine.)

"A new African violet club is being formed. This will be the ONLY African violet club in the whole of New Hampshire! Come study this beautiful plant with us. Meetings will be held on the fourth Tuesday of every month (except December) at 7:30 PM. The first meeting was at the home of Richard and Cheryl Koch, 4 Glen-side Drive, Pelham, NH 03076. If you are interested in growing African violets and want to know more about their culture, please call Cheryl at 635-2505. Anyone in New Hampshire or the northern Massachusetts area is welcome. Come one and all!"

THE BREVARD AVS presented a public display of specimen African violets and gesneriads at the Brevard Mall in Melbourne, FL. In addition to the display of plants, members of the society sold small plants and presented an educational program on African violets and gesneriads.

More than 212 African violets were entered in competition at the GREEN THUMB AVS show, "Clownin' Around With Violets", in Fayetteville, AR, with Maxine Chism as show chairman. Mrs. F. L. Robertson and Mrs. J. P. Fulton tied for Queen of Show. Winners were: Queen of Show, 'Night Magic', sweepstakes (21 blue ribbons), Mrs. Robertson; Queen of Show, 'Garnet Elf', runner-up to Queen, 'Winter Grape', Mrs. Fulton; best arrangement, "Violets-Go-Around", Maxine Chism, Show chairman, blue ribbons in arrangement division, Mrs. Chas. Bird, Mrs. Morris Maxwell; educational display, "African Violets and Their Relatives", Mrs. Fred Kerry, Mrs. Harry Parker and Mrs. Maxwell; visitor's plant, 'Candy Cane', Cathy Robertson; best gesneriads, Mrs. Edward Buckle, Mrs. Kerr.

Theme of the BAKERSFIELD (CA) AVS show was "Violets and Olde Time Country Music", Myrita Henry chairman. Winners were: Jo McCoy, AVS Collection Award (gold rosette) 'Pinwheel', 'Becky', and 'The King'; Nona Buchana, Tricolor Rosette and sweepstakes in design; Gayle Chappell, AV Council of Southern California award for best California hybridized plant, 'Ms. Pretty' (Carol Anderson); Lynn Rickett, "Propagation by Seed", best educational exhibit, Lois Clark 'Happy Trail', best cup and saucer planting, Frances Ward, 'Tiny Blue' in an unusual container; Jo McCoy, species class, "Rupicola", Episcia "Cleopatra"; Nona Buchanan; best miniature, 'Tiny Sparkles'.

The AVC OF GREATER ATLANTA held its 3rd annual show, "Rainbow of Treasures", with Mrs. Kathy Spissman as show chairman and club president. Winners were: Best in Show, 'White Elf'; 2nd best, 'Garnet Elf'; AVSA Collection, 'Red Flair', 'Tommie Lou', 'Sylvan Blue', sweepstakes runner-up, best miniature, 'Little Lou', best gesneriad, 'Smithanthia', Charles Henry; 2nd best in show, 'Garnet Elf', Katie Harper; 2nd Best AVSA Collection, 'Marta', 'Cameo Queen', 'Millie Blair', sweepstakes, Bill Barnett; 2nd best mini, 'Tiny Sparkler', Mrs. Helen Eller; best semimini, 'Pink Trinket', Mrs. Sara Henderson; 2nd best semimini, 'Dora Baker', Mrs. Frances Barnes; 2nd best gesneriad, 'Siningia Speciosa', Mrs. Barbara McGrath; best in design, terrarium with 'Pixie Blue', Mrs. Sue Cook; 2nd in design, aquarium with 'Emperor', Mrs. Kathy Spissman; best arrangement, Miss Lucy Wheeler; 2nd best Mrs. Theresa Norris; best commercial, Jim Wright of Violets Galore of Georgia.

"Violets Thru the Looking Glass" was the theme of the 3rd annual show of the AVS OF SPRINGFIELD, DELAWARE COUNTY, PA. Winners were: Mrs. Emlee McLaughlin, club president, Queen of Show, 'Little Sweetheart', 2nd best, 'Pink Dreamin', 3rd best, 'Ultra Blue', AVSA Best Collection (Gold Rosette), 'Tiny Blue', 'Tiny Fantasy', 'Double Take', sweepstakes in design and arrangements; Mrs. Moleba Barbehenn, runner up; Alice Guiney, club project, 'Candy Dancy', Mr. and Mrs. Richard Meyers, sweepstakes in specimen plants, gesneriads. Mrs. Charles Rios, chairman; Richard Meyers, co-chairman.

The UTICA AVS held its 29th show, "Saintpaulia Serenade" with the following top awards: Amateur division, Estelle Hutchins, Queen of Show, 'The King', runner up, 'Raspberry Star', sweepstakes; Susan Shaffer, Junior Queen, 'The King', runner up, a tie with two plants of 'Millie Blair', Susan and Richard Shaffer; Commercial division, Yerman's African Violets (Rowell Yerman), Queen of Show, 'The King', runner up, 'Blue Tempest', AVSA Best Collection, (Gold Rosette), 'The King', 'Blue Tempest', 'Tommie Lou', runner up for New York Society registered variety, 'Grand Entrance'; Mary's House of Violets (Mary Dimitriadis), Junior Queen, 'Garnet Elf', runner up, 'Stampede', best registered New York origination, 'Amazing Grace', sweepstakes; Design division, Queen, Marion Caulkins; runner up, Mary Williamson.

"Gardens of Gesneriads" was the theme of the 2nd annual show of the FRIENDSHIP GESNERIAD AND AVS in Wylie, TX with Marge Merino and Jo Cutts as co-chairmen. Winners were: Colene Barnett, Best in Show, 'Lavinda', best blue, 'R. Astrid', best pink, 'Pink Panther', sweepstakes, 14 blues; Jo Cutts, AVSA 1st Collection, (Gold Rosette), 'Susie Kraus', 'Coral Capers', 'Cotton Bowl', best in class, award of distinction, artistic design, 'Mary, Mary Quite Contrary', "Mother Nature's Garden"; Mary Hedlund, best geneva edged, 'Gala', best semiminature, 'Beginner's Luck', best in class, award of creativity in design, "Mother Nature's Garden"; Nancy House, best single two-tone, 'Garnet Elf', best variegated, 'The Parson', best club project plant, 'White Cockatoo', best in class in design, "Gardens of the World"; Joyce Lassiter, best gesneriad, 'Nemotanthus Tropicana'; Larry Maupin, best artistic planting, dish garden, best hanging basket, 'E. Pink Brocade'; Frances McManus, best white, 'Cameo Queen', best red, 'R. Mars', best double two-tone, 'Bonus Babe'; Marge Merino, best semitrailer, 'Mohawk Trail', best mini, 'Dreamin', best strawberry jar, best bubble bowl, best in class in design, "Mister McGregor's Garden"; award of appreciation, educational exhibit; Dolly Reddell, best semitrailer, 'Trail Along', best terrarium, best in class, Tri-color Award, "Holy Garden", best in design, "Mister McGregor's Garden"; Carolyn Smith, best decorative container; John Ward, best in class design, "Mary, Mary Quite Contrary", "Seeds of Life"; Shirley Warner, best in class design, "Gardens of the World"; Maxine Wood, 2nd sweepstakes runner-up, 2nd AVSA Collection (Purple Rosette), 'Granger's Serenity', Taylor's 'Emperor', Granger's 'Blue Tempest', best club project episcia, 'E. Grangero', best in class, design, "Seeds of Life."

The VIOLET HARMONY CLUB'S annual show, in Fort Worth, TX, resulted in the following awards being presented: AVSA Best Collection (Gold Rosette), 'The King', 'Starshine', 'Gypsy Pink', best in show, horticulture sweepstakes, best variegated, best in decorative container, best single, Mrs. W. B. Stallings; AVSA 2nd



PEPPERMINT FOG

Hybridized and
Photographed by

Sandra Leary

MARIPOSA



Best Collection, (Purple Rosette), 'Fresh Pink', 'Cameo Queen', 'Becky', Mrs. L. W. Rex; best double, 'Mrs. Greg', Mrs. Jack Dacy; best trailer, best miniature, best semiminature, best companion plant, best streptocarpus, Maxine V. Beam, club president; best seedling, Mrs. O. G. Pierson, who was the hybridizer; best project plant, 'Leila', Juanez M. Holt; best begonia, Mrs. Judy Byers; special begonia, Mrs. W. J. Ritmanich, educational exhibit, Mrs. Royce D'Arcy; best artistic design, Mrs. Hervey S. Hutchins, III.

Winners at the annual show of the VANCOUVER AVS, held in Vancouver, Canada, were as follows: Best in show, 'Delft Imperial', 2nd best, 'Pixie Trail', 2nd best amateur, 'Poodle Top', highest AV aggregate, 27 blue ribbons, gesneriad grand award, 28 blue ribbons, Pacific Northwest Judges' Council Rosette, 'Garnet Elf', 'Colorado', 'Ruby', best semiminature, 'Snoopy', best terrarium, Linda Jorgenson; 2nd highest AV aggregate, 17 blue ribbons best true miniature, 'Little Delight', best project plant, 'Mint Blue', best gesneriad other than AV, 'Streptocarpus Weismoor', best trailer, 'Pixie Trail', Puget Sound Gesneriad Society award, best gesneriad, Beth Unruh; best novice, 'R. Audrey', 2nd best variegated foliage, 'Top Dollar', Robert Hamilton; highest gesneriad aggregate, 12 blue ribbons, best species, 'Ionantha', best columnea, 'Early Bird', Daphne Mahrer; best amateur, 'Garnet Elf', Emmie Rellin; best Canadian origination, 'Fringed Pink Swan', Gwen Jackson; best club project other than AV, 'Pink Flare', Irene Ogg; novice rosette, 'Garnet Elf', Lauren Glen.

The 14th annual show of the TOWN AND COUNTRY AVS INC., OF PHILLIPSBURG, NJ had as its theme, "Fiesta of Violets." Winners were: J. Anthony Randle, best in show, 'Freedom Red', runner-up, 'Kay A.', best in show under 12", 'Mark', runner-up, 'Kneehigh', Miniature sweepstakes, best semiminature, 'Tiny Tim', AVSA Gold Rosette, 'The King', 'Mark', 'Margaret Rose'; New Jersey Council of African Violet Clubs rosette, 'Garnet Elf', 'B. Marta', 'R. Astrid', second best gesneriad in aquamatic, Columnea 'Cayugan'; Mrs. Leon K. Stull, Sr., best arrangement, Mrs. George Harner, best Kolb's Greenhouse origination, 'Sailor's Dream', best gesneriad in aquamatic, episcia, 'Limeade', best gesneriad, Columnea 'Stella Nova'; Mrs. Hank Schocker, 2nd best violet in aquamatic, 'Ultra Blue'.

The RHODE ISLAND AVS' annual show, "Violets For My Love", with Vincent E. Ballirano as chairman, had a total of 186 entries. Winners were as follows: Horticulture division, AVSA Collection Award (gold rosette) 'Lavender Tempest', 'Sweet Mary', 'Ballet Lisa', Tri-color (and best jumbo) 'Lavender Tempest', best 12" to 16", 'Jupiter', 2nd best 'Quasar', best under 12", 'Jupiter', 2nd best, 'Vern's Delight', Henry Vivier; best miniature 'Toy Clown', Janet Zahn; 2nd best, 'Little Rascal', Regina Marcotte; best standard trailer, 'Star Showers', Madeline Ballirano; best miniature trailer 'Pixie Blue', Vincent Ballirano; 2nd best jumbo 'Pink Philly', Brother Blaise; best novice 'Joy Pink', Janet Zahn; best unusual container, 'Pixie Blue', Madeline Ballirano; best kissing cousin - Streptocarpus, 'Purple Nymph', Linda Raymond; best in class: best single, 'Candy Cane', best pink, 'Jupiter', best red, 'Mars', best lavender and orchid, 'Linda', best two-tone, 'Sweet Mary', best geneva, 'Quasar', Henry Vivier; best blue and purple, 'Frankie', Beverly Sweet; best white, 'Sister Suzie', Brother Blaise; design division, Tri-color (and best artistic), 'Love In Bloom', Jeanette Richard; 2nd best, 'Love Knot', Vincent Ballirano; best arrangement, 'Love Nest', Jeanette Richard; 2nd best 'Love Letters', Beverly Sweet; sweepstakes Award, Henry Vivier, 16 blue ribbons; special award, education exhibit, John Mashuta, theme, Lola Rainone.

Winners at the 29th annual show held by the AVS OF ROCHESTER, NY with the theme, "Remembrances", were: Marilyn Wiegand, best in show, 'Amazing Grace', runner-up, 'Tommie Lou',



AWARDS TABLE—Here's the awards table at the annual show held by the AVC of Greater Atlanta in Atlanta, GA. The theme of the show was "Rainbow of Treasures". Kathy Spissman is the club president.

sweepstakes, 23 blue ribbons, most plants entered, 29 plants; Thelma Hansen, runner-up to sweepstakes, runner-up to most plants entered, 18 plants; Debra Wiegand, junior best in show, 'Country Charmer'; Joe Noga, runner-up, 'Icicle Trinket'; Mildred Barnes, best in show design; Nancy Hill, runner up; Roy Roth and Larry Van Dam were co-chairmen.

ILLINOIS AVS' 23rd annual show and convention, "Circus of Violets", was hosted by the Margaret Scott AVS of Champaign-Urbana with Miss Mattie Owings, state president, and Mrs. William Peer, a state director, chairmen. Winners were Mattie Owings, sweepstakes (AVSA silver bowl), IAVS (gold rosette), Magill Perpetual Challenge Cup (5 best distinct varieties), 'My Darling', 'Miss Buffy', 'Alouette', 'Flag Blue', 'Lullaby', best double white, 'Miss Buffy', best double pink, 'My Darling', best Illini series 'Illini Red Folly'; Eileen Peer, best of show, (IAVS Lavender Rosette) best in Horticultural Div., 'Blue Belle', best variegated, 'Lucky Lilac', best double red, 'R. Ruby', best geneva edged, 'May Queen'; Dorothy Schroeder, runner-up to sweepstakes (IAVS Purple Rosette), best wasp type, 'Pink Wasp', best terrarium; Mildred Hood, miniature sweepstakes, best white miniature 'Lucky Locket'; Judy Brodbeck, best arrangement; Maude Teater, best artistic; Hazel Parkin, best gesneriad other than a violet, 'Episcia Pink Brocade'.

The BREVARD AVS of Brevard County, FL held its second annual shown "Far East Discoveries", with Mrs. Claudia Pitrowski, show chairman, and Bob Green, club president. Winners were: Mrs. Gwen VanLandingham, best in show, 'Miriam Steele', and AVSA Gold Rosette, 'Miriam Steele', 'May Morn', 'Ballet Erica'; Mrs. DoDe Whitaker, AVSA Purple Rosette, 'Crimson Frost', 'Carefree', 'Ballet Marta'; Bob Green, runnerup best in show, 'Rhapsodie Mercury', best gesneriad, 'Aeschynanthus praelongus', best arrangement, 'Exotic Birds', sweepstakes and grand sweepstakes with blue ribbons, special award for schedule/program; Mrs. Claudia Pitrowski, best miniature/semiminature, 'Midget Bon Bon', best terrarium (DoDe's Gardens award), 'Far Away Places', best variegated (President's award), 'Emperor', special award for theme interpretation; and Mrs. Dee Hilditch, special award for educational, exhibit.

The AVS OF SYRACUSE, NY held its show with over 600 entries: Amateur and commercial winners were: best of show (over 12"), Bob Smith, 'Velvet Dawn'. Rienhardt's 'Pink Nibus'; runner-up, Jennifer Miller, 'Parson's Lynn Renee', Ticknor's 'Star Burst'; best of show (under 12") Judy Rupert, 'Barbara', Drossos, 'Pink 'n Ink'; runner-up, Judy Rupert, 'Parson's Nadine', Drossos, 'Mystical Blue'; best of show, mini, Barbara Hubbard, 'Midget Midnight', E. Champion, 'Midget Ring'; runner-up, Jean Siracusa, 'Saucy', E. Champion, 'Wee Lass'; largest blooming plant, Millie Nordone, 'Lyn's Red', Ethel Champion, 'Ring a Ding'; smallest blooming plant, (Standard), Sue Hitchcock, 'Claudia', Ticknor's, 'Barely Pink'; horticultural sweepstakes, Jean Siracusa, 30 blue ribbons, Drossos, 55 blue ribbons; decorative sweepstakes, Am/Com Janet Lottermoser, 13 blue ribbons, runner-up, Ruth Meek, 12 blue ribbons; Alice Henry Award, Cordelia Rienhardt, 'Bloomin Elegance'.

"Silver Violet Memories" the METROPOLITAN AVS OF

PEORIA, IL, was a perfect setting for their 25th year celebration and annual judged show. Winners were: Mrs. Patricia Barber, top honors, winning 19 blue ribbons, 2 tri, 1 gold rosette and 1 special blue ribbon; Marie Crow, runner-up with 14 blue ribbons, \$5.00 plant project award and 1 purple rosette; Judy Brodbeck, special blue ribbon, a silver bon-bon dish and tri ribbon in the artistic division. In addition to the awards mentioned, a total of 40 blue, 23 red, 8 special blue and 3 tri-color ribbons were given. Mrs. Maude Teater was show chairman.

The ABC'S AFRICAN VIOLETS sponsored its first AVSA judged show, "The Year of Mother Goose", in Brownwood, TX., with Mrs. Jan MacDonald, show chairman, and Mrs. Judy Fragua co-chairman. Winners were: best of show, 'Snowbird', 2nd best of show, 'Little Pamy', best of section, 'Ballet Anna', 'Snowbird', 'Sandra', 'Little Pamy'; best semi, 'Beginner's Luck'; best mini, 'Midget Bon Bon'; best arrangement, 'Star Light, Star Bright'; President's award, best dbl. blue, 'Lullaby'; horticultural sweepstakes, Jan MacDonald; best trailer, 'Pixie Trail', Kathie White; best dish garden, "A Hunting We will Go", Mabel May; Special merit awards, educational exhibits, "Simple Simon", Judy Fragua; "Mary, Mary", Jan MacDonald, and "Hickory, Dickory, Dock", Pixie Clark and Sue Hopewell.

The FORT WORTH AVS' 16th annual show had as its theme, "You've Come a Long Way, Violet Baby". An award of merit was won by Mrs. Raymond Carr Jr. for staging and by Mrs. Rodney M. Fergon for an outstanding educational table. President, Mrs. C. W. Cramm, show chairman, Mrs. L. W. Chilcutt, and Mrs. Edward E. Harlow co-show chairman. Best awards were: best of show, 'Painted Orchid', best double blossom, 'Purple Joy', best trailer, 'Trail Along', AVSA Collection (Gold Rosette), 'Painted Orchid', 'The King', 'Bonus Babe', Mrs. Robert D. Early; best patented plant, 'Ballet Lisa', standard AV sweepstakes, design division sweepstakes, AVSA collection (Purple Rosette), 'Lullaby', 'Southland Rose', 'Wisteria', Mrs. Raymond Carr Jr; best variegated, 'Nancy Reagan', best miniature, 'Lovely', Mrs. Rodney M. Fergon; best single blossom, 'White Elf', best gesneriad, 'Episcia Cleopatra', miniature AV sweepstakes, Mrs. L. W. Chilcutt; best unusual container, gesneriad sweepstakes, Mrs. C. W. Cramm; best terrarium, Mrs. Edward E. Harlow; best artistic planting, Mrs. E. H. Wilhite; best mini arrangement, Mrs. James D. Long.

Theme of the 20th annual judged show of the NORTH SHORE AVS OF LONG ISLAND held in Greenlawn, L.I., NY was "Once Upon A Time", with Mrs. Elaine Grasso of Hauppauge as show chairman. Winners were: Best in show, 'Betty', second best in show, 'Abigail Adams', best variegated 'Rain Beau', largest African violet, 'Mrs. Greg', AVSA Collection (Gold rosette), 'Mark', 'Frankie', 'Abigail Adams', horticultural sweepstakes, second best gesneriad, 'E. Cleopatra', best gesneriad in unusual container, 'E. Alfred Sharp', Helen Strnad; horticulture sweepstakes runner-up, best miniature, 'Giggles', best semiminature, 'Odd Fellow', best trailer 'Pixie Blue', best New York State origination, 'Midget Bon Bon', best artistic planting 'Little Red Riding Hood', best bottle garden, best bubble bowl, design division sweepstakes, Gail Puskas; best plant in novice class, 'Mary Ann', best violet in a decorative container, 'Sir Lancelot', Linda Cozart; best Long Island origination, 'Purple Buttercup', best club project, Melanie Weber; second best New York State origination, 'Amazing Grace', best gesneriad, 'Streptocarpus Purple Nymph', Teddy Clark; best terrarium and best dish garden, Gloria Rutmayer; second best dish garden, Louise Wagner; best miniature arrangement, "Jack Be Nimble", best arrangement, 'Cinderella', Elaine Grasso; design division sweepstakes runner-up, Donna Boos; best entry in guest class, 'Silver Pinafore', Beryl Wood; best violet in unusual container, 'Tippy Pink', Lucy Alexander; best commercial display, "Gesneria", Sandy Weynand.



QUEEN OF SHOW—Mrs. Lillian Woody checks her 'Lucky Lilac', which won Queen of Show at the annual show held by the Memphis-Shelby County AVS in Memphis, TN. Theme of the show was "African Violets in Memphis on the Mississippi".

The UNION COUNTY CHAPTER OF AVSA celebrated its 25th anniversary. Organized September 17, 1953 and affiliated with AVSA October 21, it is the 70th oldest affiliate in the United States and the third oldest in New Jersey. Throughout the year the club has commemorated its 25th season in various ways. The theme of the annual show was "Twenty-Five African Violet Anniversaries" and it recalled memories of the first 24 shows sponsored by the club. The court of honor was displayed on a five-and-one-half foot high, four layer anniversary cake. Janet Riemer, president of the club, wrote and published a quarter-century history of the organization as part of the celebration. The history is an attractive 18 page booklet which has revived half-forgotten memories for some of the older members, familiarized newer members with the heritage of the Union County Chapter and will be useful for years to come in the orientation of new members. The history is dedicated to Max Maas of Springfield, N.J., a long time member and supporter of the club who is known to many readers for his hybrids. The year-long celebration culminated in October at an anniversary party and luncheon at which slides from all 25 of the club's shows were shown. Members from the organization's early years were invited back to reminisce and to renew old friendships.

The SILVERMINE AVS held its Fifth annual judged show, "Up With Violets", with George Holomakoff of South Norwalk as show chairman. Award winners were: Best in show, 'Gypsy Pink', sweepstakes, (34 blue ribbons), AVSA Gold Rosette (Amateur Division), 'Starshine', 'Lavender Delight', 'Gypsy Pink', best gesneriad, 'S. Canadian Centennial', special award, 'Garnet Elf', Mrs. John Kosik, Jr. of Stamford; runner-up to best in show, 'Tina', AVSA Purple Rosette (Amateur Division) 'Brigadoon', 'Peach Frost', 'Tina', runner-up to sweepstakes (25 blue ribbons), best miniature, 'Reflections', best semiminature, 'Little Lulu', special award 'E. Cleopatra', special award for theme, "Up With Violets", Mrs. Joseph Stramandole of Darien; best artistic design "Terrarium", best small arrangement, "Flight Into Spring", best Presidents Challenge, 'Celine', AVSA Gold Rosette (Commercial Division), 'The King', 'Ulli', 'Flamingo', Mrs. Anthony Cheska of Stamford; best novice, 'Wild Flame', Mrs. Jack Clifton of Stamford; best windowsill plant, 'S. Emperor Fredrick', George Holomakoff of South Norwalk; best trailer 'Jet Trail', Mrs. David Lee of West Redding; special award, Michael Luongo of Norwalk for the educational table.

PARMATOWN AVC's annual show had as its theme, "Violets

Lyndon Lyon

(Photos by grower)



PINK OCCASION

FANCY TRAIL





DARREN D — Marie Dattalo, Port Arthur, Texas

KATIE — Rosalie Gamlin, San Carlos, California



Visit the Orient". Winners were: AVSA Award (Gold Rosette), King of the show, 'Purple Enchantment; Queen, 'Lisa', Martha Fensel; Smallest best blue ribbon plant, 'Becky', Don Gibbons; novice with most blue ribbons, Ken Keipert; best miniature or semiminature, 'Double Take', Arlene Albrecht; best blooming gesneriad, 'Streptocarpus, White Nymph', Roberta Klimo; best gesneriad grown for foliage, 'Pink Brocade', best Parma Zip, Ohio State Award, Blue Rosette, Mary Pilck; Best artistic planting or arrangement, Miriam Tuchewicz.

In Morgan City, LA "Violets in a Japanese Garden" was the theme of the **ATCHAFALYA AVS'** 3rd annual show. Winners were: Best of Show, 'Garnet Elf', best miniature, 'Little Delight', best double white standard, 'White Cockatoo', sweepstakes runner-up, Mrs. Myrlie Thomas; 2nd best of show, 'Mark', sweepstakes, best variegated foliage standard, 'The Parson's Faith', Mrs. Shirley McCann; AVSA Best Collection (Gold Rosette), 'Abigail Adams', 'Lullaby', 'Tina', best single purple bloom standard, 'The Parson', best miniature trailer, 'Pigmy Trail', Marguerite DePriest; best club project, 'Granger's Monaco', Mrs. Yvonne Ozio, best artistic design, 'In a Japanese Garden', Barbara Neuman; best decorative container, Betty Boudreaux; episcia with blossoms, Alice Marceaux; episcia with foliage only, 'Cleopatra', L. T. Ozio; sinningia with blooms, 'S. Doll Baby', Peggy Marceaux. Show chairman was Y. George Ramirez, Jr. with Mrs. Alice Ramirez as co-chairman.

The **AVS OF SAN FRANCISCO** presented its show, "Celebrate With Violets" and top honors went to Sally Smith, who entered 26 plants and received 25 blue ribbons, winning sweepstakes. Other awards were: Sally Smith, AVSA Gold Rosette, 'Mark', 'Becky' and 'Jason'. Best in show and best double, 'Jason', best 'Celine', best 'Millie Blair', best variegated, 'Parson's Lynn Renee'; Cy Ye, 'Mary C', first runner up to best in show, 'Tiny Gypsy Pink', best mini, 'Pixie Blue', best mini trailer, 'Icicle Trinket', best semimini, 'Nematanthus Tropicana', best gesneriad, and 'Iceberg', best white, best single; Ted Knee, runner up to sweepstakes with 21 blue ribbons; second runner up to best in show, 'S. Pendula'; Louis Ambler, standard trailer, 'Rocky Trail', Northern California Council's blue rosette for registered Western 'P. T. Marvella', and red rosette, 'Westdale Velvet'; Cecile Ambler, the council's gold rosette, 'Westdale California Wine'; Anne Daniels, Victor Constantinov Memorial Trophy with his 'Edith V. Peterson'; Donna Burla, best novice entry, 'Spring Deb'; Gary Beck, 2nd best novice award, 'Mighty Mini', 3rd best novice entry, 'Silver Dollar'; Brock Brown, best planting in an unusual container; Murial Warwick, sweepstakes trophy with 7 blue ribbons, best entry in the artistic class, 'Spring Celebration', best arrangement, "Father's Day"; Frances McMahon was show Chairman, Sally Smith co-chairman, Elizabeth Reece, staging chairman, and Lourdes Kurilo, luncheon chairman.

Winners of the 8th annual show, "Her Majesty-The Violet", presented by the **SHREVEPORT AVS** under direction of Mrs. Alva Tubbs, show chairman, and Mrs. Brian Dickerson, president; were: AVSA Gold Rosette, 'Annie Mae', 'Ballet Marta', 'Carol', Queen of show (Silver Award), 'Annie Mae', Princess Rosette, 'Ballet Marta', best semiminature, 'Zanzibar', Mrs. C. D. Roberts; AVSA Purple Rosette, 'Emperor', 'Vern's Delight', 'Corpus Christi', TubeCraft award, 'Duane's Delight', horticulture sweepstakes and overall sweepstakes, Mrs. O. W. Box; President's Silver award, 'Mrs. Greg', Mrs. H. W. McCarty; best in aquamatic planter, 'Double Sir Lancelot'; best artistic Tri-color, Mrs. Brian Dickerson; best seedling, Mrs. L. R. Damewood; House of Violets Award, 'Dixie Dandy', Mrs. Alva Tubbs; best miniature, 'Window Blue', Mrs. Roy Franks; best arrangement, Tri-color, Mrs. J. L. Bradley; best miniature arrangement Tri-color, planting & arrangement, sweepstakes and terrarium sweepstakes, Mrs. Frank Buchanan.

The **BORDER CITIES AVC OF DETROIT, MI** held its 25th annual judged show and plant sale, "Remembering Violets" with over



AT ALEXANDRIA—Here are shown the three top winners at the 8th annual show held by the Alexandria (LA) AVS. They are, left to right, Mrs. W. H. Rollins, Mrs. Earl H. Dunn and Dr. J. B. Jung. Theme of the show was "Holidays With Violets".

2,000 people in attendance. Best of show was 'Tina', entered by Ellen Platz. 'Sylvan Blue' was runner-up, entered by Martha Schobloher. Bud Woodruff was sweepstakes winner.

Winners in the third annual show "Maytime Is Violet Time", held by the **ROYAL SAINTPAULIA CLUB**, Sussex, N.B. Canada, were: Jean Bell, best in show, 'Wedgewood', runner-up, 'Lullaby', best Griffiths origination, 'Amethystland', best single rosy pink, 'Pink Rhapsody', best double red, 'Red Knave', best dark blue, 'R. Elfriede', best two tone, 'Poodle Top', best variegated, 'The Parson's Hope', best miniature, 'Little Red', best plant in unusual container, AVSA best collection, (Gold Rosette), 'Lullaby', 'Nancy Reagan', 'Wedgewood', AVSC Rosette for best collection of Canadian Originations, 'Melinda Pearl', 'Louise Black', 'Amethystland', best miniature gesneriad, Sinningia 'Freckles', best terrarium, best dishgarden, best arrangements, "A May Basket" and "A Tribute to Mother", most entries, most blue ribbons in horticulture division, most blue ribbons in design division; Louise Secord, best plant of Canadian origin, 'Sweet Silver', best single red, 'Brigadoon', best Geneva 'Sean', best seedling 'Carla seedling' AVSA second best collection, (Purple Rosette), 'Seafoam', 'Becky', 'Red Topper'; Anne Moffett, best single white, 'Starshine', best pink double, 'Betty'; best rosy pink, 'Bonus Babe', best gesneriad, 'Nematanthus', 'Tropicana'; Edith Morrison, best single dark blue, 'Blue Boy'; Almeda McLeod, best unnamed plant; Dorothy Mercer, best trailer, 'Violet Trail'; Renie Zylstra, best episcia, best design, "Maytime — Budtime", "May Is For Fishermen" and "Birds In May", best arrangement, "A May Mini"; Winnifred Thomson, best arrangement, "A Bridal Bouquet".

The **AVS OF SOUTH BAY** held its 14th annual show, "Violet Round Up", with Barbara Elkin as show chairman. Award winners were: AVSA Gold Rosette, 'Starshine', 'Frankie', 'Maneta's Fanfare', best single, 'Starshine', best in aquamatic division, 'Mighty Mini', Alice Barger; AVSA Purple Rosette, 'Carefree', 'Garnet Elf', 'Arctic Mist', best in show and Tri-color, 'Blue Flair', largest blue ribbon plant, 'White Glory', Virginia Pirie; 2nd best in show and Northern California Council Blue Rosette, 'Blue Excitement', best miniature 'Little Red', 3rd in aquamatic division, 'Wisteria', Anne

Jantzen; sweepstakes with 31 blue ribbons in horticulture and 4 design, Northern California Council Red Rosette, 'Circus Boy', best standard trailer, 'Rosalie's Trailer', best "Millie Blair" award by Gertrude Allgeier; best Bubble bowl and best Celine Chase award, 'Celine', Barbara Elkin; Northern California Council Gold Rosette, 'Circus Boy', best unusual container, "Silver Bells", best semiminature trailer, 'Pixie Trail', Dorothy Gawienowski; Edith Peterson award, best variegated 'Tommie Lou', best arrangement, "Wagon Wheels", Dorothy Kahrman; best semiminature, 'Bambino', Nancy Brooks; best novice, 'Dark Beauty', Lucille Cross; best gesneriad Kohleria, 'Ruham', Ruth Wolff; best seedling, Marceline Chiswell; 2nd in Aquamatic Division, 'Lyndy Lou', Anne Kadack; design division, best terrarium, Darrell Heinrichs; best planting, "By the Watering Hole", Lidy Cropley.

"Violets-Worth Their Weight in Gold" was the theme for the '78 Show of the AVS OF PHILADELPHIA, PA, with 'E' Jansen, and Jim Klawitter as co-chairmen. Winners were: 'E' Hansen, sweepstakes in horticulture, best trailer, 'Freedom Trail', best white/blue multi, 'Regina', best geneva, 'Night Magic', best blooming gesneriad, 'S. hirsuta', best non-blooming gesneriad, 'E. Pink Brocade'; Jim Klawitter, best AVSA collection, (Gold Rosette) 'Grand Entrance', 'Mark', 'Colorado', best plant over 12" & best red, Maas's 'Red Buttons', 2nd best plant over 12" & best double blue, 'Celine', best variegated, 'Winter Grape', 2nd best under 12" & best double pink, 'Grand Entrance'; Natalie Capriotti, runner-up in horticulture, best strawberry jar, best miniature or semiminature, 'Baby Pink', best miniature, 'Little Eve', 2nd place AVSA collection (Purple Rosette), 'Baby Pink', 'Tiny Fantasy', 'Baby Dear', best streptocarpus, 'S. Holsteii', runner-up in design division, best artistic planting, "Golden Slippers", best arrangement, "End of the Rainbow"; Stella Urbanski, best plant in show & best under 12" & best two-tone, 'Shalimar', best Granger introduction, 'Brigadoon', best coral, 'Coral Capers'; Marlene Brown, best gesneriad other than an AV & unusual container, 'Wee Star', sweepstakes in design division & best artistic planting & best terrarium, best dish garden, best artistic planting with miniature violet, "Million Dollar Baby"; Tom Seiler, best arrangement & best bubble bowl; Laura Shannon, best Tinari introduction & best double white, 'White Wisteria', best plant of 'Carol', best blue ribbon plant which received no other award, 'Pink Cushion', best double blue, 'Violet Grace'; Anna Seiler, best novice, 'Plum Perfect'; Alice Easter, best arrangement, "Golden Memories"; LaRue Renneisen, best hobby, a violet decoupage.

The OAKVILLE AVS held its first annual show "Violets around the World" with Miss Sandra Lex, show chairman. John Bradshaw of CFRB officially opened the show. Results are as follows: Vicky Filipchuk, Amateur division, Best in show, 'Tommie Lou', 2nd best, 'Ivory Buttons', best miniature or semi, 'Midget Valentine', AVSA Rosette, 'Tommie Lou', 'Ivory Buttons', 'Top Dollar', sweepstakes in horticulture and design, best single, 'Christine Diane', best red dbl., 'Andrew Ian', best geneva dbl, 'Robert John', best variegated, 'Ivory Buttons', best mini, 'Midget Valentine', best ballet, 'Ballet Lisa', best terrarium over 12"; Eva Lindstol, best under 12", 'R. Barbara', best arrangement, "In the Orient"; Bernice Mutch, best white dbl., 'White Dove'; Phyllis Flynn best pink dbl., 'Valerie', best unusual container, 'Top Dollar', best, "Tea Time in England"; Evelyn Jeffery, best blue dbl., 'Lullaby', best terrarium under 12"; Carol Bailey, best two-tone dbl., 'Candy Lips', best Optimara, 'Delaware'; Sharon Filipchuk, best semi mini, 'Azure Trinket', best project plant, 'Gavin Douglas'; Miree Lex, best fibrous rooted gesneriad in bloom, Columnea 'Early Bird', grown for foliage only, 'Chirita Sinensis', Silver Leaf (also best gesneriad in show) best gesneriad tuberous, 'Chrysothemis Friedrichsthaliana', runner-up to sweepstakes, horticulture amateur; Donald Plevin, best in design - advanced, "Tea Time in England", B.I.C., "Around the World in 80 Days", and "It's a Small, Small World"; Sandra Lex, B.I.S. - advanced, "Lochiel", AVSA Gold Rosette, 'Lochiel', 'Barbara Jean', 'Mary D',

Piggy Bank Will Help You Save For Convention



sweepstakes, horticulture - advanced, runner-up sweepstakes design - amateur, best artistic planting and best in design, amateur, "Our Home and Native Land", best single, 'Christine Diane', best standard trailer, 'Pink Star Lou', best two-tone, 'Monaco', best pink dbl., 'Becky', best variegated, 'Joyce Marie', best dbl. blue, 'Lake Louise', best red dbl., 'Tina', best miniatures, 'Midget Bon Bon', best semiminature, 'Little Chrissy', best sport, 'Miriam Steele Sport', best mini or semimini trailer, 'Pixie Blue', best in class amateur-design, dishgarden, "Drifting Around the World" and "Our Home and Native Land".

On November 4-5, the AV COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA will hold its Biennial judged show. This show was a huge success two years ago. The council is made up of all Southern California AV chapters. The present number is 31 clubs. It is the largest show of African violets and gesneriads from San Diego to this side of San Francisco. This year it will be held at South Coast Botanic Garden, Palos Verdes Peninsula. Take San Diego Freeway (405) west to Crenshaw Blvd. just off Pacific Coast Hwy. The theme of the show is "Early California". There will be a lot of leeway with designs from Indians, Spanish, Mexican, Gold Mines, Missions, etc. There will be educational displays, literature on local clubs, as well as AVSA, plus tables and tables of plants for sale and supplies. It was pointed out by Mrs. Lee Way, publicity chairman that "due to the passage of Prop. 13, I still don't have absolute confirmation the Botanic Garden will be available to us, even tho arrangements were made at the beginning of the year. Local chapters will be kept informed if there will be a change as to location of show. The show must go on, please feel free to call for up to date information, at area code (213) 894-6706."

The MERRIMACK VALLEY AVS of Lawrence, MA held its 11th annual show, "Spring Rhapsody of Violets" with Connie Maginnis as show chairman. Award winners were: Best in show, 'Grangers Pink Radiance', second best, 'Jet Trail', best miniature, 'High Stepper', best seedling, 'Miniature #10', best gesneriad, Episcia 'Cleopatra', best species, S. magungensis minima, horticulture sweepstakes runner-up with 44 blue ribbons, Marcia Balonis; 3rd best in show, 'Eternal Snow', AVSA Collection Award, Gold Rosette, 'Bluzette', 'Sparkle Plenty', 'Pink Viceroy', Horticulture sweepstakes with 48 blue ribbons, Carrol Bacon; best semiminature, 'Pink Cameo', Lilliam Prior; best arrangement, 'Sakura — The Cherry Blossoms of Japan', best small arrangement 'Jeepers, Peepers', design sweepstakes, Fran Baschnagel; best artistic planting, 'April Showers', Connie Maginnis, special award, outstanding educational exhibit, Cheryl Koch.

FIRST ARLINGTON AVS held its annual show, "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling" with the following winners: Mickey Gilson, best of show, 'Starshine', which was also best single blossom; best double



DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS

by Nancy Hayes of Bloomfield, CT. (Leila Eginete's 'Swan Lake')

blossom, 'Tic Toc', AVSA purple rosette, sweepstakes, best of section, 'Trail Along'; best variegated, 'Yum Yum' Ecy Forcht; best miniature (or semiminature), 'Sweet Pixie' Barbara Nichols; best patented, 'R. Denise', best gesneriad, Episcia 'Cleopatra'; best artistic planting, Peggy Raines, "The Little People", the AVSA Gold Rosette, best artistic arrangement, Ina Mae Pierce for "A Little Bit of Heaven". The educational exhibit was done by Hazel Dews and titled "Irish Sweepstakes".

SUBURBAN AV FRIENDS of San Mateo held their third judged show, "Sail Along with Violets". Winners were: Marian Green, AVSA Gold Award 'Lavender Tempest', 'Wildfire', 'Peach Frost', Best in show, 'Ms. Pretty'; Harriette Poss, 23 blue ribbons for sweepstakes, first runner-up to Best in show, 'Mysterium', best Millie Blair, best decorative container; Marge Benson, show chairman, second runner-up to Best in show, 'Super Red'; Judy Mitchell, 11 blue ribbons for first runner-up to sweepstakes; Peggy Cotturi, Nob Hill best novice entry, 'Nob Hill'; Judy Mitchell best variegated, 'Tommie Lou'; Shirley Israel, best miniature, 'Mexicali Rose', best semiminature, 'Dancing Doll'; Georgine Friesleben, club president, best gesneriad, 'Tropicana', best terrarium, best artistic planting; Muriel Warwick, best arrangement, best design. The education exhibit drew attention from most show-goers and helped promote flower sales.

A flower vendor taking his afternoon siesta set the theme, "South of the Border" for the **HOUSTON GESNERIAD SOCIETY's** second annual show. Show chairman was Kay Roose with Elaine Riquelmay as co-chairman. Winners were: Best Saintpaulia, 'Crown of Gold', best arrangement, Flo Brogden; best gesneriad, 'Sinningia Cardinales' AVS 1st Collection, (gold rosette), 'Blue Boy', 'Country Gentleman', 'Open Face', best semi, 'Little Lulu', horticultural sweepstakes, Susan Myers; best artistic planting, Susan Johnson; AVSA 2nd Collection (purple rosette), 'The King', 'French Lilac', 'Granger's Artic Mist', Jane Rehilius; best mini, 'Little Rascal', best project plant, Billie Golla; best terrarium, Mollie Ritchie.

The **HAINES CITY (FL) AVS** presented its 19th annual show "Violet Pow-Wow" with the members using their collections of Indian memorabilia. The focal point placed at the entry of the show was a large Indian Tee-pee surrounded by greenery and violets. Some 156 plants and artistic arrangements were entered. The AVSA collection awards were presented to Mrs. Guy Thrower for her 'Tommie Lou', 'Top Dollar' and 'Autumn Sky', (gold rosette) and Mrs. Warren B. Partain, Sr. for her 'Double Black Cherry', 'Happy Harold' and 'Astro Pink', (purple rosette). Other top award winners were Mrs. Roger Snyder, best in show, 'Claudia', second best in show, Mrs. Guy Thrower's 'Autumn Sky', best artistic design, Indian Handi-Crafts by Mrs. Ernest Dilorenzo, and sweepstakes Mrs. Warren B. Partain, Sr.; best violets in each section awards went to Mrs. Roger Snyder, 'Garnet Elf'; Mrs. Lawrence Older, 'Pop Art'; Mrs. Warren B. Partain, Sr. for 'Happy Harold'; Mrs. Cecil Schroeder for her 'Gertha' and 'Lisa'; Mrs. Glenn Hooker for her 'Lucky Streak'; Mrs. Guy Thrower for her underwater arrangement, "Quiet Waters", and Mrs. Edna Buchta for her framed picture. Two special awards were given for the educational display and the focal point.

The **SUNDAY AFTERNOON AV MATINEE**, Milwaukee, and **RAINBOW VIOLETEERS**, Brookfield, Wisconsin clubs held their annual judged show, "Violet Time is All The Time". Top awards were: Best in show, Marilyn Corlew, 'Gi Gi'; AVSA Collection, Adeline Krogman, 'Step Up', 'Blue Belle', and 'Granada', sweepstakes horticulture classes; Marilyn Corlew, 24 blues and sweepstakes designs; Chris Kemmerling, 5 blues. Show chairman and club presidents, Ruth Mengsol and Bette Wink.



Mrs. Maude Cook

LIFE MEMBER

As a complete surprise to the honoree, the AVS of Beaumont, TX chose to make Maude Cook their first club life member and in addition, she was presented an AVSA Life Membership by an anonymous donor. Mrs. Cook was a charter member of the Beaumont AVS, formed in December, 1951, and affiliated with AVSA in January, 1952. She has maintained continuing membership in both.

Interested in hybridizing she studied all available material from the early 1960's. Her attempts with new varieties met with remarkable success. Her preferences are the variegated foliage and fantasy blooms. Some of her early hybrids are still being collected today and have been featured in the AVS magazine as well as on the cover.

A spry 82 years of age, enthusiastic violet grower, she radiates good humor and is a constant source of encouragement to new growers. She has served in most offices and was chairman of most committees in the local club, and delights in recruiting new members in AVSA. Some of her hybrids registered with AVSA are: 'Mr. Gus', 'Texas Blue Treasure', 'Sersi', 'Texas White Pride', 'Purple Popcorn', 'Texas Rainbow' and 'Linda Star'.

The **BARRINGTON BLOOMERS AVS** was represented at the Barrington Women's Club's 20th annual Art Fair. The AVS also had an educational exhibit for the proper culture and grooming of African violets. Hundreds of African violets grown by the members were sold during the Art Fair, the proceeds going to the group's judged AV show next May. Last spring the Barrington Bloomers conducted a successful library exhibit and clinic. According to Mrs. R. J. Miderski, "Violets really are happening in the northwest suburbs of Chicago!" Frances Jarnowski is president of the Barrington Bloomers.

The **BAMA BELLES AVS OF OPELIKA, AL**, held its 2nd annual show, "Violets, Southern Style", with Mrs. D. E. (Shirlee) Sands as show chairman. Winners were: Queen of Show, best double pink, rose, or coral, 'Sweet Surrender', Opposite Queen, best geneva, 'Wild Flame', Junior Queen, best semiminiature, 'Wild Lemon', AVSA Purple Rosette, 'Lavender Delight', 'Granger's Jim Dandy', 'Lullaby', DAVS Gold Rosette, 'Rodney', 'My Valentine', 'Cherished Hope', best double purple to dark blue, 'Top Cat', best double light to medium blue, 'Sylvan Blue', best double orchid to lavender, 'Wisteria', best double two-toned or multicolored, 'Unspoken', best miniature, 'Coco', best plant in unusual container, 'Tina', best terrarium, best in design classes, "Way Down Upon the Swannee River", "Southern Hospitality", and sweepstakes rosette, Mrs. D. E. (Shirlee) Sands; Opposite Junior Queen, best double red, wine, or fuchsia, 'Rhapsodie Mars', best single solid color, 'Starshine', best single two-toned or multicolored, 'Firebird', best in design class, "Violets, Southern Style", Mrs. Douglas (Brenda) Browning; AVSA Gold Rosette, 'Granger's Musetta', 'Tommie Lou', 'Poodle Top', best variegated foliage, 'Crystal Bruce Special', best seedling, 'Bama Belle', runnerup to sweepstakes, Mrs. Ray (Marie) Attleberger, Gold Hill, AL; best double white, off white, blush, 'Rhapsodie Candy', Mrs. Gene (Edna) Ward; best design, "Those Cotton Fields Back Home", Cheryl Garby.

"Violets in a Musical Mood" was the theme of the 2nd annual show of **JEFFERSON AFRICAN VIOLET ASSN. (JAVA)** held in New Orleans, LA. Winners were: Show Chairman, Mrs. Doris Deshotel, AVSA collection (Gold Rosette) 'Gail', 'Mark', 'Gene Garner', best of show, 'Mark', 2nd best 'Frankie'; educational exhibit, award of appreciation, (Pink Rosette) Aurelia Dainelli, Helen Dainelli, and Vicki Ingersoll; best Gesneriad, 'Cleopatra', Tom Biglin; best mini, 'Blue Sprite', Louise Peters; best semimini, 'Dora Baker', Linda Deichman; best trailer, 'Gypsy Trail', Aurelia Dainelli; artistic arrangement, Tri-color, Louise Peters, president of the club; best variegated plant 'The Parson's Nadine', Mona Guess; best blue specimen, 'Glacier Point', Doris Deshotel; best terrarium, largest plant, 'Sugar Blues', sweepstakes in horticulture, Janet Reno with 28 Blues, best unusual container, 'Freckles', best artistic planting, Tri-color, Janet Reno.

"Spring Ahead to Easter" was the theme of the **SOUTH FLORIDA AVS's** show at which the following were winners: AVSA 1st Collection award (gold rosette), 'Pink Electra', 'Juliana', 'Silver Pinafore', Queen of Show, 'Pink Electra', Mrs. A. Luxford; AVSA 2nd Collection (purple rosette), 'Tommie Lou', 'Parma Zip', 'Summer Skies', sweepstakes in horticulture, Mrs. Julia Fladt; Tri-color, sweepstakes in artistics, Mrs. L. Basing; novice, (1 year AVSA membership), 'Blue Eyes', Mrs. Kathy Sabatino; 'Gigi', Mrs. H. Liebler; 'Pixie Trail', Mrs. J. Hurlburt; 'Pacific Giant', Mrs. A. Van Eck; 'Eternal Snow', Miss B. Nisson; gesneriad, 'Purple Nymph', Mrs. A. Bayer, and many other best of class winners.

The **MEMPHIS-SHELBY COUNTY AVS'** annual show, "African Violets in Memphis on the Mississippi" was held in Memphis, TN with the following winners: AVSA 1st Collection (gold rosette), 'Copper Kettle', 'Pedro', 'Lucky Lilac', Queen of Show, 'Lucky Lilac', best project plant, 'Millie Blair', Lillian Woody; AVSA 2nd Collection (purple rosette), 'Whirlaway', 'Top Dollar', 'Nancy Reagan', Mrs. Mable Marshall; Junior Queen, 'Pink 'N Ink' best artistic planting, Mrs. Mae Phillips; best first year bloomer, Mrs. Ann Warren; best gesneriad, 'E. Chocolate Soldier', sweepstakes in design division, Mrs. Mary Scarbrough; best arrangement, most unique special feature, Mrs. Mildred Young; sweepstakes in horticulture, show sweepstakes, Mrs. Iona Pair; best unusual container, Mrs. Ginger Ilardi.

Over 300 attended the **ALEXANDRIA (LA) AVS'** 8th annual show, "Holidays With Violets", featuring 23 judged categories. Top winners were: Dr. J. B. Jung, Tricolor rosette, silver award and

traveling trophy, 'French Lilac', second best, 'Like Wow Sport', sweepstakes, and AVSA 1st Collection (gold rosette), 'Tony', 'Coral Reef', 'French Lilac'; Mrs. Earl H. Dunn, sweepstakes runnerup best in design division, 'Easter'; Mrs. W. H. Rollins, Dixie AVS gold rosette, 'Norlina', 'Dixie Frost', 'Governor Wallace'. Other winners were Mrs. John H. Gilchrist, Mrs. Charles Ward, Mrs. Carl Ball, Mrs. H. O. Barker, Jr., and Mrs. J. R. Milner, Show chairman was Marty McKay with Mrs. McKay as vice chairman. Staging chairmen were Mrs. W. H. Rollins and Elizabeth Martin.

The annual judged show of the **NAUGATONIC AVS** had as show chairman Mrs. Ernest Gorgens of Shelton, and Mrs. Lester Nettleton of Trumbull, co-chairman. Winners were: Mrs. Glenn Gilbert of Stratford, Queen of the show, 'Lullaby'; Mrs. Albert Rolorke of Shelton, 1st Lady in Waiting, 'Blushing'; Mrs. Lester Nettleton of Trumbull, 2nd Lady in Waiting, 'Minerva'; Mrs. Harry Heverling of Watertown, sweepstakes; Mrs. Herbert Young of Trumbull, 1st runnerup Mrs. Julius Fargeot of Branford, 2nd runnerup; Mrs. Heverling, President's Challenge award, and AVSA Collection Gold Rosette, 'Tommie Lou', 'Alouette' and 'Winter Grape'; Mrs. John Prokop of Shelton, smallest blue ribbon plant, 'Patricia'; Mrs. Julius Fargeot the Memorial Award, 'Eternal Snow'; Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Gilbert special award for the theme, "Violets Around the Clock"; Mrs. Fabrizio Tazzioli of Shelton and Miss Brigitte Gostelli of Shelton, the educational table; Mrs. George Boose of Trumbull, the AVSA Gold Rosette in the commercial division, 'Abigail Adams', 'Night Magic' and 'Sugar Blues'; Mrs. Herbert Young special awards for the best artistic planting and best arrangement; other winners were Mrs. Newell Mallette of Shelton, Miss Gosteli of Shelton, Mrs. Arnold Haeussler of Trumbull, Mrs. Chester Kuzia of Seymour, Mrs. James Branch of Ansonia, Mrs. Pauline Blank of Bridgeport and Miss Irene Perkins of Bridgeport.

The **CLIFTON AVS** held its show with results as follows: Best in show and best Rhapsodie, 'R. Candy', Prudence Traut; best novice, 'Top Dollar', Paula Farago; best hybrid trailer, 'Lora Lou', largest blooming plant, 'Kathryn Ann', Vivian Cava; best project plant, 'Celine', (Maas), best in design, 'C. Kulesa', runnerup to sweepstakes, show princess, 'Garnet Elf', best mini, 'Little Eva', Virginia Morici; best semimini, 'Care Deeply' and sweepstakes, Pam Groff.

"African Violets—Enjoy!" was the theme for the annual show of the **CAPITAL DISTRICT AVS** and the **AVS OF ALBANY, NY**. Violet Carey was general chairman, while Bob Smith was co-chairman. Winners in the horticulture division included: AVSA gold rosette, 'Celine', 'Sparkle Plenty', and 'Alouette', Queen runnerup, 'Alouette', Junior Queen runnerup, 'Celine', second best New York State origination, 'Pink Pillow', Violet Carey; horticulture sweepstakes with 19 blue ribbons, Ida Cook; Queen of Show, 'Lynda Loy', and horticulture sweepstakes runnerup with 15 blue ribbons, Joyce Dick; New York state first award for best origination, and largest blooming plant, both with 'Nancy Reagan', Hugh Freele; Jr. Queen; 'Bicentennial Trial', best CDAVS president's project plant, 'Carol', and best windowill plant, 'Rhapsodie Carmen', Bill James, Jr.; best AVS of Albany president's project plant, 'Grenoble', Irene Tobias. In the design division, Connie Grasso was sweepstakes runnerup; Vince Ozimek won sweepstakes; first design award, "Inside or Outside", second design award, "Enjoy Your Blossoms", an arrangement under 5 inches.

The **COLUMBUS AVS** (Ohio) held its annual show, "A Spectrum of African Violets" with the following winners: AVSA Collection Award, 'Lisa', 'Anna', 'Becky'; sweepstakes, Jr. Mini sweepstakes, best double pink, 'Becky', best single pink, 'Lisa', best double white, 'White Cockatoo', best of Tommie Lou family, 'Tommie Lou', best fantasy, 'Inky Pink', best two-tone multicolor other than fantasy, 'Autumn Russet', best Rhapsodie Ballet, 'Englert Lisa', largest

bloom, 'Faith', Mrs. Mildred Lusk; Queen of the Show, 'Mark', Mini Queen, 'Midget Valentine', best double red, 'Mark', best variegated foliage miniature, 'Midget Valentine', Mrs. Emilie Savage; Princess of the Show, 'Firebird', best geneva edge, 'Firebird', Mrs. Elaine Cummins; Jr. sweepstakes, semiminature queen, 'Icicle Trinket', mini sweepstakes, best fantasy miniature, 'Little Rascal', best variegated foliage semiminature, 'Icicle Trinket', best miniature Sinningia, 'Wood Nymph', best arrangement, Mrs. Fran Lane; novice award, first place Ohio State Collection, 'Emkaytee's Buckeye Beauty', 'E's Genifer Lea', best coral 'Carla', best gesneriad other than Episcia, 'Tropicana', Eugene Trent; best sylvan blue (Society Project), best double blue or purple, best white miniature, 'Ping Pong', Mrs. Hellyne Lanman; best single white, 'Star Blush', best Hawley cultivar, 'Chu Tu', Mrs. Katherine Hawley; largest plant, 'Triple Threat', best blooming Episcia, 'La Solidar Green', Harford Renick; best small standard plant, 'Snow Sparkle', Mrs. Vanetta Hinderer; best specimen plant or trailer in unusual container, 'Sparks', best trailer (miniature or standard), 'Happy Trail', Mrs. Lois Noble; best non-blooming Episcia, 'Pink Brocade', best handcraft, Mrs. Peg Hamilton; best artistic planting, Mrs. Mildred Bump; best terrarium, best dish garden, Mrs. Nevada Boone. Mrs. Sharon Bruce was show chairman.

"Broadway Melodies of 1978" starring African violets, co-starring gesneriads, was the theme of the show of the **MILWAUKEE AVS**. Mrs. Jean Achauer was show chairman. Award winners were: Star of the show, 'Barbara', Linda Denter; understudy to the star, 'Blue Belle', sweepstakes, AVSA collection (Purple Rosette), 'Swanee Flamingo', 'White Bloomin' Fool', 'Blue Belle', best design, 'Spirit of Miriam Steel', Adeline Krogman; child star, 'Happy Trails' runnerup to best supporting actor, Sherrin Pratt; best supporting actor, 'Aeschynanthus', AVSA collection (gold rosette) 'Frosted Blue', 'Garnet Elf', 'Tommie Lou', Helen Bertel; best in design division, Jeannine Achauer; other awards in various classes: 'P.T. Burma Burns', 'Carmen', 'Mystical Blue', 'Gisela', 'Painted Orchid', 'Marta', 'Denim Blue', Sherrin Pratt; 'Dina', Marge Lenken; 'Ultra Blue', and best terrarium, Pearl Olsen; 'Breezy Blue', Sharon Leider; 'S. Velutina', Helen Geisler; 'S. Ruby Throated Doll Baby', Howard Burns; 'S. White Sprite', Loraine Schiebel; Artistic plantings: 'South Pacific', "Show Boat", "My Fair Lady", "Music Man", Jeannine Achauer; "Student Prince", Adeline Krogman; "Oklahoma", Jean Achauer; "Flower Drum Song", Jeannette Achauer; "Finian's Rainbow", Loraine Schiebel.

"Jazz It Up With Violets" was the theme of the 5th annual show of the **FIRST NEW ORLEANS AVS**. Winners were: Mary Carter, best in show, 'Yankee Cheer', largest plant, 'Yankee Cheer', best non-blooming episcia, 'Painted Warrior'; Barbara Sisk, 1st runnerup, 'Painted Orchid', best trailer, 'Rocky Trail', best semimini, 'Pink Trinket'; Laurin Summerville, 2nd runnerup, 'Pink Pillow', best variegated foliage, 'Pink Lemonade', 2nd best white single, 'Felicia'; Penny Brenner, sweepstakes, Dixie AVSA collection, 'Fresh Pink', 'Thriller Diller', 'Dixie Dandy'; Shirley Goslee, AVSA collection, 'Amazing Grace', 'Starshine', 'Hondo', best mini, 'Little Lou', tricolor rosette for the arrangement, "Way Down Yonder in New Orleans"; Laura Jordan, semimini sweepstakes; Edna Bass, unusual container, best gesneriad, 'Columnea Tiogan', best 'Cleopatra'; Susan Guffey, best project plant, 'June Swift', president's rosette and The House of Violets award; Judi Britton, best coral, 'Sam'; Anita Baudean, best sinningia, 'Pink Ice', Poyner Greenhouse award; Marie Knoblock, tricolor rosette for best artistic planting, "Jazz Country"; Pam Floyd, non-member 'Candy'; Karl Becnel, non-member, gesneriad, columnea, 'Yellow Hammer'. The chairman of the show was Mrs. Judi Britton and co-chairman was Mrs. Linda Voyles.

TOP CHOICE AVS of Shreveport, LA, presented its spring show, "Around The World—With Violets". Mrs. Warren Rosenbaum was

show chairman with Mrs. T. K. Thomas, assistant show chairman. Mrs. W. M. Plaster is club president. Awards were as follows: best in show, 'Gem Dandy', award of merit, 'After Dark', Honorable mention, 'Town and Country', Tube Craft Award, 'After Dark', 'Marge', 'Eternal Snow', House of Violets Award, 'Gem Dandy', AVSA purple rosette, 'Eternal Snow', 'May Morn', 'Blue Belle', sweepstakes in horticulture, best in artistic plantings, terrariums, Mrs. T. K. Thomas; Bermas Plastic Award, 'Mark', AVSA 1st Collection Award (gold rosette), 'Final Touch', 'Red Buttons', 'Corpus Christi', Mrs. Edward L. Terry; best in arrangements, "International. Intrigue", Mrs. O. P. Wilson; award of merit, educational exhibit, prepared by Mrs. W. M. Harwell and Mrs. O. P. Wilson.

The **METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS AVS'** 24th annual show, "Through the Window", had as show chairman Mrs. H. S. Johnson. Thirteen local clubs participated. Top honors went to Mrs. Gary Gass with sweepstakes, 14 blue ribbons and 4 St. Louis Award lavender ribbons (best in class), Best in Show, 'Sailor's Dream', second best in show, 'Ballet Lisa', third best, 'Top Dollar', AVSA Collection Award (gold rosette), 'Shining Plumage', 'Tommie Lou' and 'Top Dollar'; Mrs. Charles Deder, AVSA Collection Award (purple rosette), 'Christmas Candy', 'G. G. Topsail', and 'Ruth Carey'; Mrs. Robert Laske, best miniature, 'Humpty Dumpty', best miniature collection, 'Humpty Dumpty', 'Midget Valentine' and 'Double Green', and the St. Louis Award for best planting; Mrs. Frank Peach, second best miniature, 'Midget Valentine'; Mrs. J. W. Reitz, third, 'Little Rascal'; Mrs. Vernon Kloepper, best semiminature, 'Fire Buggy'; Stretch Smith, best trailer, 'Pixie Blue', best species, 'S. confusa', and best gesneriad, 'Pink Brocade'; Mrs. Fran Russom, best arrangement; Mrs. William Janus, best nine inch arrangement using fresh material; Mrs. Robert Martin best nine inch arrangement using dry plant material; best yearbook, The Pied Pipers.

CENTRAL FLORIDA AVS staged its 7th annual show in Orlando with "Fantasy Characters and Violets" as the theme. More than 650 visitors attended the first day of the show despite the inclement weather. Twice that number viewed the exhibits the following day when the sunshine and normal Springtime temperatures returned. Award winners: best in show, 'Top Dollar', AVSA collection, (gold rosette) 'Top Dollar', 'Richter's Step up', 'Granger's Pink Nimbus', best arrangement, tricolor 'Dynamic Duo', best artistic planting, tricolor 'Lazy Days', best small arrangement, 'Little Red Ridinghood', best dried picture, 'Fred Bassett', artistic sweepstakes and grand sweepstakes, Mrs. H. Steven Johnson; 2nd best in show, 'Ballet Marta', best miniature, 'Bambino', horticulture sweepstakes, Mrs. Joseph E. Shea; best in show by novice, 'Suzy's Little Beau', Mrs. H. Steven Johnson, III; novice sweepstakes, Mrs. Marvin Murray; best gesneriad, Episcia 'Pink Brocade', Mrs. Sandra Pearl; best trailer, 'Pixie Blue', Mrs. C. W. Clark; AVSA purple rosette, 'Regina', 'Blushing', 'Peak Of Pink', Miss Nancy Manske; best segment table, "Lunch With Smokey The Bear", Mrs. Fred Boxburger.

The **BRAZOS AVC** of Bryan, TX held its 3rd annual show with Mrs. Don Phillips and Mrs. Mickey Ray as show chairmen. Winners were as follows: Mrs. Mickey L. Ray, best AVSA collection 'Serenity', 'Mister Gus' and 'Pink Pillow', second best in show and second best variegated plant, 'Pink Pillow', best two-toned blossom, 'Serenity', sweepstakes with 38 blue ribbons; best miniature, 'Tiny Gypsy', best semiminature, 'Zeta Girl', best Texas hybridized, 'High Class', and best species, S. pendula; Mrs. James B. Wilson, club president, best of show, 'Tommie Lou'; second best AVSA collection, best edged blossom, 'Starlite'; best single standard, 'Happy Harold'; best double standard, 'Sierra Rose'; best variegated foliage, 'Tommie Lou', best trailer, 'Violet Trail' best gesneriad, Episcia 'Cleopatra'; Mrs. Don Phillips, best artistic arrangement, best artistic planting, second best artistic planting and second best semiminature; Mrs. Donald Brenner, a new club member formerly from Astro AVC in Houston, best purple blossom, 'The King', best

pink blossom 'Val's Top Angel', best white blossom, 'White Elf'; Mrs. Ole Bogan, best and second best novel container and best specimen 16" or more; Mrs. Roy Nichols, club vice-president, best 'Kicky Blue' project plant as well as other awards; Mrs. Jim McIntyre, best 'Tiny Pink Bells' project plant; Mrs. George Woods, best red blossom, 'Mars'; Kim Hajl, best junior member class, 'Heather Blue', best variegated miniature, 'Little Lou'; Mrs. Wanda Burgin, best novice specimen, 'The Queen'; Mrs. Basil Collins, best sport, 'Pay Dirt'; Mrs. David Kesler, second best artistic arrangement; and Mrs. Chester DeSavigny, an award of merit for educational table on hybridizing.

The **LONG ISLAND AVS** presented its 24th annual show, "Treasure Chest of Violets" with Miss Leila Egenites as show chairman. Award winners were: Best in show, best over 12" 'Mary D', Anne Lee; second best, best under 12" 'Pink 'N Ink', best double pink, 'Sasha', best plant of 'Dick Bell', best semiminature, 'Sparky', best Annalee Violetry Introduction, 'Little Angel', best Gesneria Violetry Origination, 'Silver Spoon', 2nd best AVSA collection (purple rosette), 'Carol', 'Pink 'N Ink', 'Helene', best NYSAVS collection of 3 miniatures (tricolor rosette), 'Lil Surprise', 'Wee Lass', 'Little Rascal', best NYSAVS collection of 3 semiminatures (tricolor rosette), 'Bit-o-Luck', 'Little Angel', 'Sparky', sweepstakes with 23 blue ribbons, Martha Tucker; third best in show, best single, 'Star Shine', best double blue, 'Melody Irene', Bert Romeril; best two-tone, best L.I. origination, 'Her Weakness', best AVSA collection (gold rosette), 'The King', 'Mark', 'Corpus Christi', runnerup to sweepstakes with 19 blue ribbons, Betty Raskopf; best double purple, 'Frankie', Neil Godfrey; best single purple, 'Hauppauge', best miniature (double blossom), 'Wee Admiration', best episcia, 'Cleopatra', Sandy Weynard; best double white, 'Crystal Swan', best variegated, best variety originating in NYS (tricolor rosette), 'Heather Blue', Paul Kasperski; second best NYSAVS collection of 3 semiminatures (red rosette) 'Icicle Trinket', 'Azure Trinket', 'Dancing Doll', Pat Kasperski; best miniature (single blossom), 'Midget Valentine', Cheri Block; best club project, 'Celine', Jerry Block; best novice, 'R. Ophelia', Virginia Callison; best hybrid African violet trailer (MRC of African Violet Judges rosette), 'Lora Lou', best gesneriad, 'N. Tropicana', best collection semiminatures (commercial) (NYSAVS tricolor rosette), 'Irish Angel', 'Corky', 'Little Jim', Leila Egenites; second best variety originating in NYS (red rosette), 'Night Magic', Grayce Godfrey; best mini-gesneriad, 'S. White Sprite', Edna Heagney; highest scoring entry in the Design Division and best artistic planting, 'Smugglers Cove', Eleanore Hiltzman; second highest scoring entry in the Design Division and best arrangement 'Precious Gems', Ann Milliken; best novice in artistic planting 'Long John Silver', Chris McKenna; best container planting and best terrarium, best underwater arrangement, and sweepstakes in the design division, Suzette Smith.

The winners of the 19th annual show of **TAVSSI**, held in Staten Island, NY, "Violet Magic", were as follows: Edward Bradford of Woodhaven, NY, Mitterway Award, best plant in show, 'Amazing Grace', Hunt Award, 2nd best plant, 'California Sunrise' won the Jean Wood award as best variegated plant, Dooley Award, 3rd best plant, 'Mark', McVay Award, best trailer, 'Kitchen Trail', Farrington Award, best Terrarium, runnerup to best artistic planting, runnerup to best arrangement, best NY State origination, 'Amazing Grace', Gold Rosette of AVSA Collection, 'Celine', 'Starshine' and 'Jean'; Raymond Dooley of Staten Island, Purple Rosette of the AVSA Collection Class, 'Tina', 'Dbl. Peacherino' and 'Lullaby', Svenkesen Award for most trophy ribbons, for best in class ribbons, Hudson Award, sweepstakes in horticulture, President's Award, 'Rhapsodie Appollo', Strobach Award, best miniature, 'Little Eve', Moylan Award, best Semiminature, 'Little Chrissy', Swift Award, best bubble bowl, 2nd best Collection of Mini's for NY State, 'Little Eve', 'Little Star' 'Cradle Song', Best collection of semiminature plants (NY State) with 'I Spy', 'Little Chrissy', 'Fancy Pants', award of appreciation for his Court of Honor: Sigi Stockhammer, Peterson

Award, 1st blue ribbon plant of 'Blue Moon'; Becky Alters, 1 yr. membership for best in non-member class, 'Lilian Jarrett'; Florence Grouzalis, best dish garden the Leppard Award; Alice Ann Tompkins best artistic planting, best arrangement and runnerup to best miniature arrangement; Evelyn Stockert, best miniature arrangement, the Grouzalis Award; Ann Dooley 2nd best rosette for NY State origination, 'Top Dollar', the best collection of miniature plants, NY State Class, 'Tippy Pink', 'Tiny Gypsy' and 'Tip Toe'; William Sorensen, Award of Appreciation for the Education and Information table promoting AVSA items and NY State items. Mrs. Adolph Gundlach was show chairman and Miss Evelyn Lawless the co-chairman. Mrs. Michael Cicero is president.

"Violets—A Great Adventure" was the theme of the **LOWER BUCKS COUNTY AVS** annual show held in Fairless Hills, PA. Winners were: Best in Show, 'Red Buttons', first runnerup, 'Diana', best variegated 'Tommie Lou', AVSA 1st Collection, (gold rosetts) 'Blue Corsage', 'Red Buttons', 'Eric'; New Jersey Council Purple Rosette, 'Miriam Steel', 'Flamingo', 'Diana', best Maas, 'Red Buttons', best show theme, Maryrose Smith; second runnerup and 2nd best Maas' introduction, 'The King', Judy Callahan; best cup & saucer entry, Rosetta Blenderman; best hobby entry, best sinningia, 'S. Cimly', sweepstakes in horticulture, Mrs. "E" Hansen; sweepstakes in design, best arrangement, best mini, 'Baby Pink', AVSA second collection (purple rosette), 'Baby Dear', 'Baby Pink', 'Tiny Fantasy', Natalie Capriotti; best episcia, 'E. Ruby Red Dress', Fay Chadwick; best semiminature, 'Little Jim', Alice Langton; best artistic planting, best design, runnerup to sweepstakes in design, Bill Lyons; best novice entry, 'Capri', Jerry Effinger; best non-member, 'Monique', Marge Day.

The **AVS OF UTAH** held its 26th annual show in Salt Lake City. The theme was "Sharing Happiness". Monte Pearce served as chairman for the show, with Willy Braun as co-chairman. Award winners were: Queen of Show, 'Crimson Frost', princess (best mini), 'Midget Midnight', best variegated, 'Limoges Pink', AVS 1st Collection (gold rosette), 'Lavender Spice', 'Crimson Frost', 'Faith', Mrs. Ilene Jorgensen largest plant, 'Ivory Venus', sweepstakes in design, Monte Pearce; runnerup to Queen, 'Millie Blair', AVSA 2nd Collection (purple rosette), 'Millie Blair', 'Coralie', 'Ann Slocomb', Hazel Chadwick; plant with most blooms 'R. Barbara', design sweepstakes, Mrs. Marie Jones; design sweepstakes, Mrs. Maureen Roberts; educational exhibit, 'Hospital for Ailing Violets', Mrs. Mary Schultz.

The **FIRST AVS OF WICHITA FALLS, TX** held its 12th annual show, "Violet Reflections" with Mrs. Pat Dudley as show chairman. Mrs. J. M. Walbrick is club president. Winners were as follows: Mrs. B. T. Haws, Horticulture sweepstakes, AVSA purple rosette, 'Ivory Buttons', 'Carefree', 'Tina'; Mrs. Michael Fall, horticulture sweepstakes runnerup AVSA gold rosette, 'Firebird', 'Faith', 'Tommie Lou', Queen of Show, best double-blossom plant, best variegated foliage plant, best single-blossom plant; Mrs. J. M. Walbrick, artistic sweepstakes, best dish garden, best terrarium; Mrs. Pat Dudley, artistic sweepstakes runnerup, best arrangement, "My Mirror Image".

The **AVS OF PENSACOLA, FL** held a show, "Violets for all Seasons" with 'Tommie Lou' winning best in show and 'Marta' second best. 'Midget Bon Bon' was judged the best miniature and 'Little Jim' the best semiminature.

The **FIRST AVS OF DALLAS** 24th annual show, was held with 252 entries in horticulture and 40 artistic entries. The theme was "Yesterday (origin Africa 1892)—Today (hybrids worldwide) and Tomorrow (hi-hopes, a yellow violet)". Winners were: AVSA 1st Collection award (gold rosette) 'Ballet Marta', 'Dutchman', 'Delft Imperial', Mrs. Mary Hedlund; second collection award (purple

rosette), 'Pink Electra', 'Thriller Diller', 'Mulberry Mist', sweepstakes (23 blue ribbons), best miniature, 'Little Rascal', best white, 'Cameo Queen', best single, 'Red Wink', Tricolor award, best in Gesneria family, 'Streptocarpus', 'Sherer's Hollywood', best project plant, 'Rose Ember', Mrs. J. B. Cutts; best in show, 'Cotton-bowl', most outstanding seedling, most unusual container, Mrs. D. L. Treadway; best semiminature, 'Cuddles', creativity award, Mrs. Sue Whitfield; best variegated and second best plant in show, 'The Parson's Sunshine', Mrs. L. J. Grinstead; best geneva edge, 'Geranimo Sport', Mrs. T. L. Wheeler; best foliage plant, other than best in show, 'Episcia 'Cleopatra', award for best artistic planting, Mrs. Chas. Frost; arrangements sweepstakes, award of distinction, best sport 'Lavender Delight Sport', Mrs. John Kreska; best miniature arrangement, Mrs. Gene McDonald; Award of Merit, educational table, Mrs. Bruce Reidel.

Winners of the 3rd annual show held by the **SWEET WATER AVS** at Hauppauge, L.I. NY were: best in show, 'Gigi', 2nd best, best NYS original, best variegated, best mini, 'Midget Flame', largest 'Band Master', horticulture sweepstakes, best introduction by Gesneriad, 'L. I. Fire Island', best terrarium, best AVSA Collection, (amateur award-gold), 'Mark', 'Tina', 'Band Master', Best NYS collection (Mini-Amateur - Tricolor) 'Silver Bells', 'Midget Valentine', 'Little Red', Betty Ruth; 2nd best NYS original, 'Amazing Grace', Jane Weber; 3rd best and best trailer, 'Happy Trail', Margie Miller; best mini gesneriad, 'Sinningia Tinkerbelle', Linda Giamaro; best episcia, 'Episcia Al Sharp', best arrangement, best dish garden, Sue Walsh; best plant Jr. grower, 'Blue Reverie', Maria Weynand; 2nd runnerup horticulture sweepstakes, best semiminature, 'Icicle Trinket', best gesneriad, 'N. Gregorious', Sue Terrell; best club projects, mystery violet, 'Magic Splendor', mystery columnea, 'Bonfire', best novice - Ballet 'Lisa', Carolee Olsen; design sweepstakes, Donna Boos; runnerup, Julia Bell; best artistic planting, Gloria Rutmayer; best mini arrangement, Elaine Grasso; best decorated container, Melanie Weber; best commercial, best AVSA Collection (gold) Comemrcial, 'Lily Belle', 'Astro Pink', 'Clematis', Sandy Weynand.

The **FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET STUDY CLUB OF ASHTABULA, OH** presented its 23rd show, "Violet Rays". Mrs. Harold Armstrong was show chairman. Awards were as follows: Mrs. Clyde Rosaa, best of show, 'Millie Blair', sweepstakes, best semiminature, 'Icicle Trinket', best Hawley plant, 'Superfection', best Granger plant, 'Millie Blair', best of class in single pink, 'Superfection', single white, 'Starburst', variegated foliage, 'Yum Yum', 'Blue Storm', Terrarium, artistic planting, "You Are My Sunshine", second best miniature, 'Window Blush'; Pat Burr, second best of show, 'Light Pink Steele', third best of show, 'Atlantis', AVSA gold rosette, 'Heather Blue', 'Jim Dandy', 'Ballet Karla', Ohio state AVS orchid rosette, 'Light Pink Steele', 'Atlantis', Lavender Delight', best in class in double pink, 'Parson's Beauty', double purple, 'Rhapsodie Apollo', double coral, 'Coral Queen', Geneva edge, 'Chu Tu', Seedling, 'Pat's Elsie'; Mrs. Harold Armstrong, AVSA purple rosette, 'Red Gold', 'Ballet Karla', 'Ballet Marta', Ohio state AVS blue rosette, 'Bette Roserea', 'Husky', 'Marlite', best miniature of show, 'Blue Sprite', best of class in single blue, 'Blue Power', double blue, 'Lochiel', double red, 'Tina', double bi-color, 'Red Flame', 'Sister Ancilla', green edge, 'Sierra Rose', specimen plant in decorative container, 'Zanzibar'; Mrs. Francis Luce, best gesneriad, 'Episcia Dianthafloro', staging; Mrs. Charlotte Weber, best artistic planting, "Sunrise-Sunset"; Mrs. John Ellis, best arrangement, "Violet Rays", best of class in trailers, 'Trails End', miniature gesneriad, 'Sinningia Bright Eyes', artistic planting, "Mother's Day"; Mrs. Rea Torma, best of class rosette, artistic planting, "Invalid Tray"; Mrs. Richard Connolly, best of show dish garden; Mrs. Joe Oscar, best of class in artistic planting, "Driftwood"; Joe Oscar, best of class in double white, 'White Madonna'; Other club members participating and receiving blue ribbons included Mrs. Beulah Baird, Mrs. Elsie Burr, Mrs. Nancy Deliganis, Mrs.

Doris Hogle, Mrs. Helen Mayes, Mrs. Stella Nieminen, Mrs. Rita Novotny, and Mrs. Marilyn Shields.

The **COPPER CITY AVS** held its 23rd annual show, "Have Violets—Will Travel" in Rome, NY, with Mrs. Joan Williams as chairman and Miss Etta Wittman as co-chairman. Winners were: Best in show over 12" 'Amazing Grace', Mrs. Joan Williams; 2nd best in show, 'Amazing Grace', Rowell Yerman; best in show under 12", 'Ruby', sweepstakes, AVS 1st collection (gold rosette), Mrs. Annabelle Hart; 2nd best under 12", 'Amazing Grace' artistic queen, 'Shanksmare', runnerup to sweepstakes, Mrs. Ruth Glur; runnerup to artistic queen, 'Joy Riding Long Ago', Mrs. Elsa Keipert.

Winners of the **FORT WORTH (TX) AVS** show, "You've Come a Long Way Baby", were as follows: AVSA 1st collection, best of show, 'Painted Orchid', best double, 'Purple Joy', best trailer, 'Trail Along', Mrs. Robert D. Early; sweepstakes in larger plants and 2nd AVSA collection, best patented, 'B. Lisa', sweepst? . . . in best arrangements, staging (purple rosette), Mrs. Raymond Carr; best single blossom, 'White Elf', sweepstakes in miniatures, 'Tiny Tim', best gesneriad, 'E. Cleopatra', Mrs. L. W. Chilcutt; best miniature, 'Lovely', best variegated, 'Nancy Reagan', educational exhibit, gold rosette, Mrs. Rodney M. Fergon; best miniature arrangement, Mrs. James D. Long; best terrarium, Mrs. Edward E. Harlow; best small gift container, sweepstakes in gesneriads, Mrs. C. W. Cramm; best in artistic arrangements, Mrs. E. H. Wilhite.

The **AVS OF CANTON, OH** held its annual show, "Violets Are for Pleasure", with Mrs. Herbert Robinson as show chairman and Mrs. Raymond Russell co-chairman. Award winners were: Best in show, 'Lyndy Lou', best semi, 'Window Lace', best red, 'R. Ruby', sweepstakes, Mrs. Ralph E. Lott; 2nd best, 'R. Gisela', best pink, 'R. Gisela', best 'Millie Blair', best arrangement, Mrs. Herbert Robinson; best 'Canton Star', Mrs. Richard Robinson; best white, 'Eternal Snow', Mrs. C. L. Bullock; best artistic planting, Mrs. Henry Bircher.

The **AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of Beaumont, TX, held a judged show. The theme, "Spotlight on Violets", was staged showing spotlights on the pearl-crowned queen and the Junior queen. Mrs. Hazel Hebert was staging chairman, and Mrs. Mabel Bray was show chairman. Winners: Mrs. Flora Leger, Queen of the show, 'Mark', Junior Queen, 'Garnet Elf', and artistic planting, "Golden Triangle Highlights"; Mrs. Louise Chapman, 'Episcia Cleopatra' Mrs. Liz Ketcherside, gold rosette for best AVSA collection; Mrs. Helen Smith for her arrangement "Moonbeams by the Sea", and Mrs. Pat Tumminello for sweepstake in horticulture.

MY VIOLETS

By Mrs. Lucy Clingan

Imagine the sun is setting . . . and the sky is crimson and blue . . . doesn't your heart melt a little . . . my violets would do this for you . . . now, think of the snow where it's falling . . . and the earth is all white and new . . . doesn't your heart skip a little . . . my violets would do this for you . . . try picturing spring when it's bursting . . . and the dogwoods are fresh with dew . . . doesn't your heart feel bigger . . . my violets would do this for you . . . for my violets are all of these colors . . . white, pink, crimson and blue . . . if you are enchanted by beauty . . . you should have violets, too!

Grower Finds New Plant Growing System

Mrs. Frank Anders
905 Westwood Road
Natchez, MS 38120



WINNING VIOLETS—Here are two winners and their winning violets at the Merrimack Valley AVS' show, "Spring Rhapsody of Violets", in Lawrence, MA. They are Marcia Balonis with 'Granger's Pink Radiance', best in show, and Carrol Bacon with 'Bluzette', which with 'Sparkle Plenty' and 'Pink Viceroy' received the AVSA First Collection Award, the gold rosette.

"Anything groes"tm - what an appropriate name! I have been very excited with this sytem of growing for some time, but only for "regular" plants. Now, I am just as excited with it for my violets!

This relatively new system of growing consists of a pot, saucer, liner, and special soil which is sold together in a sort of "package deal." The old potting soil is washed off the roots with warm water, and the plant is put in the fresh, new soil alternating soil and water. The top of the soil is then misted good which is the last time the plant is ever watered from the top. Water is kept in the saucer, no less than half full; and the plant draws the amount of water it needs. No wick, no reservoir, and no mess.

Also, with the plant potted in the liner, a humidity chamber is created all around the plant because the liner is full of holes. Not only does this liner create humidity, the roots of the plant grow through the holes, and the plant does not become root-bound (which happens because of lack of air and water to the root system). Repotting is necessary only when the plant becomes too heavy for the pot and topples it over. Think of all the time saved in repotting. When it does becomes necessary to repot, it is a simple matter to slip the plant out of the liner and into a new and larger one. Simple, fantastic - and wait until you see the effect of this system on your "babies." They grow faster, greener, and are healthier than in the conventional methods and variagation seems to hold.

I won't bore you with the details of all the plants I have used in my experiments (the list is long, and I could go on for pages), but I must share my experiences with African violets.

A fresh-cut violet leaf had babies about 1/2 inch tall within a month after planting it into this system. I have tried seeds, but not yet violet seeds, with equally fantastic results.

On November 21, 1977, I potted 6 African violets into this system - 4 into 5" pots, 1 into a 6" pot, and 1 into a 7" pot. Let me assure you I knew I was overpotting, but I wanted to see what happened with larger violets since I had only tried leaves and babies before. All six plants were in bud or bloom at the time of potting. I washed the roots in warm water and suffered no wilting, or loss of blooms or buds. The plants I chose and other information are listed in

the chart at the end of this article for easier reading, but I must tell you that each plant has bloomed constantly and profusely since they have been in this remarkable system, even though the pot size was too large. On January 21 I measured again. The violets in the 5" pots have shown the most growth—one of them 4 inches in leaf span, as you can see from the chart. I grow all my violets under lights and have done the same with the ones potted in this system. The ones in this system received less fertilizer and attention than the others and still outgrew them in this two month period. The next experiments will be using normal amounts of fertilizer, as used with the other violets, and more light. I feel the results will be just as amazing as those I have had so far. I also plan to use starter plants and continue to "pot up" as necessary and check results against the ones in the conventional methods.

The most remarkable gesneriad results have been with Cleopatra. She will grow beautifully in this system out of a terrarium! The leaf size of episcias are quite large and the coloring is more pronounced.

Anything grows - you bet, from cactus to Cleopatra!

Date potted into system - November 21, 1977.
Remeasured January 21, 1978.

Variety	Reg. pot size	AG pot size	Leaf span 11-21-77	Leaf span 1-21-78
Eternal Snow	3 1/2 "	5 "	12 "	15 "
Seedling	3 "	5 "	11 "	13 "
Violet Dream	3 "	5 "	10 "	14 "
Snow Star	3 "	5 "	9 "	12 "
R. Mercury	3 1/2 "	6 "	14 "	15 "
Blue Tempest	3 "	7 "	12 "	13 "

An Accidental Beginning

Mrs. Sharon Copeland
5310 Ville Angela Lane
Hazelwood, MO 63042

My first violet show competition was drawing near. Drawing courage from the probability that my competitors in novice class were as inexperienced as I was, I set out to select my entries. 'Tommie Lou' was by far my best-shaped violet and she happened to have several blooms open. 'Emperor' is a favorite of mine with her spoon-shaped leaves and soft pink bloom so she was selected next. 'Night Life' and 'Natural Blush' had pleasing shapes but hardly any blooms open. To my perfectionist eye they were hardly a group capable of bringing a gleam to the judge's eye. Nevertheless, they were the best I had and they were groomed with much loving care until they sparkled.

The morning of the show I carefully placed my four plants into a cardboard box my husband had made. Inside the box was another box designed to hold each plant separately and safely. I drove to the house of another violet club member and transferred my box to the back seat of her car since the box was too big for the floor. We set off for the long drive to the Missouri Botanical Gardens with high hopes. A few blocks from our destination, my friend failed to slow for a red light. I yelled, "Stop, Margaret!" She stopped. My plants didn't. They were upside-down on her two entries which were on the floor of the car. Despairingly I viewed the damage: 'Night Life' had fallen completely out of her pot, 'Tommie Lou' had two broken leaves and one broken flower stalk and all of them were covered with dirt. We arrived with only 15 minutes until the deadline for entering plants in the show. Frantically Margaret blew and brushed the leaves of my plants while I tried to repot 'Night Life' with my bare hands. All of the plants were entered in the nick of time but I couldn't even smile when the workers made over my entries. Certainly the judges would laugh at those pitiful-looking plants and wonder who was this Sharon Copeland?

Margaret went off to clerk for the judges but my job as a hostess wouldn't start until the afternoon when the show opened to the public. Gloom followed me around as I talked to the other workers and bought plants that had been donated by members of the society. After lunch, a beaming Margaret hurried over to me and announced that all of my plants had won ribbons! 'Tommie Lou' had snared a blue, 'Emperor' a red, and the other two whites. The satisfaction of knowing that someone else liked my plants as much as I did was further enhanced that

afternoon as the visitors to the show filed past the novice table. Many of them pointed to my 'Tommie Lou' and expressed admiration. The remark I liked best came from the lady who said, "Look at that one. It looks like someone spilled paint on it — all in the right places."

You can be sure I'll enter the violet show again. And you know what? Next time I'll hold the violets on my lap.

It's Contagious!

Deb Dildrine
2402 Marigold Road
Wausau, WI 54401

"It's contagious!"

If a doctor told you that, you'd be dismayed. But if a violet grower tells you that, you have nothing to look forward to but hours of enjoyment, beauty and gratification.

My family looked on with approving eyes when I got my first violet. It was an FFA project. When a few more appeared around the house, they smiled and thought to themselves, 'Just a passing fancy'. But when the living room became so crowded guests had to search among leaves for misplaced coffee cups, they began to get worried.

Father donated a set of shelves to which an aquarium light was added. But even this was soon just an overflow rack. A large set of metal shelves was rescued from the basement and another aquarium light added. This, plus the smaller set, took care of all my plants. Soon another large plant light was added under which a large quantity of leaves turned that shelf into a "maternity ward."

In September we moved from Illinois to Wisconsin and guess who came along! All my violets made it without incident and all are flourishing!

Oh, my family? My brother, Bud, supplied me with a new 'mister' when my old one gave out. Mom even bought a 'Milwaukee' for herself at the Wausau Club show/sale. Dad, well he's on the road quite a bit, but when he came home tonight, after a week's absence, I guided him to my room, where I had added four more shelves and 11 new plants. All he could say was "More violets!" But, of course, he said it with a smile.

WANTED! 'Dardevil'

Gert Sherwood, 925 L. Street, #270, Sacramento, CA 95814 is especially anxious to obtain the African violet 'Dardevil'.

If you have such a plant, let her know. Contact her and if you're near enough to telephone her, then call her at 1-916-441-7684. She's willing to pay your price for the plant.

The revised **AFRICAN VIOLET HANDBOOK FOR JUDGES AND EXHIBITORS** is available for \$3 from the AVSA office.

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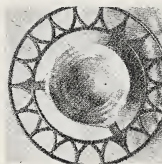
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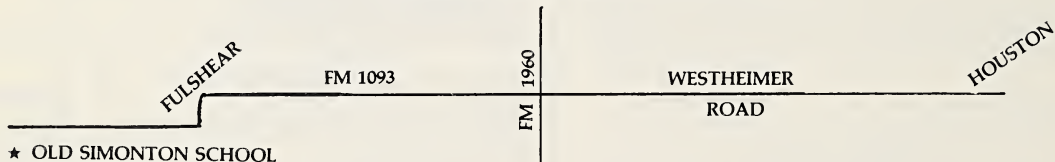
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5"	Wt. or Gr.	RS, RT	1.80	3.40	7.50	13.50	62.50
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25 1/2" x 13 1/2" x 3 3/16" DEEP

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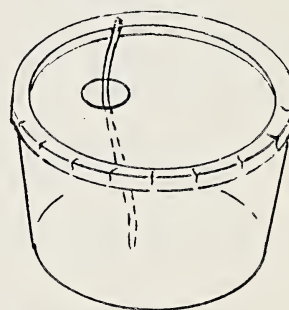
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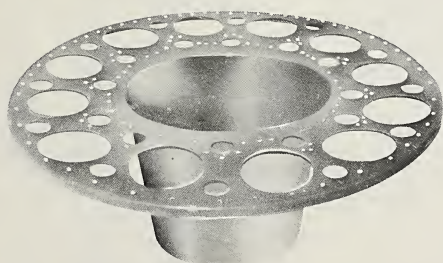
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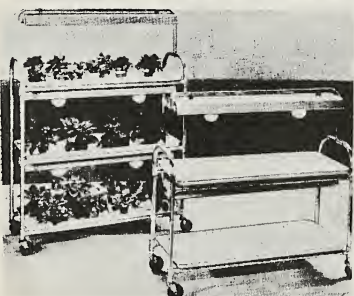
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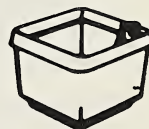
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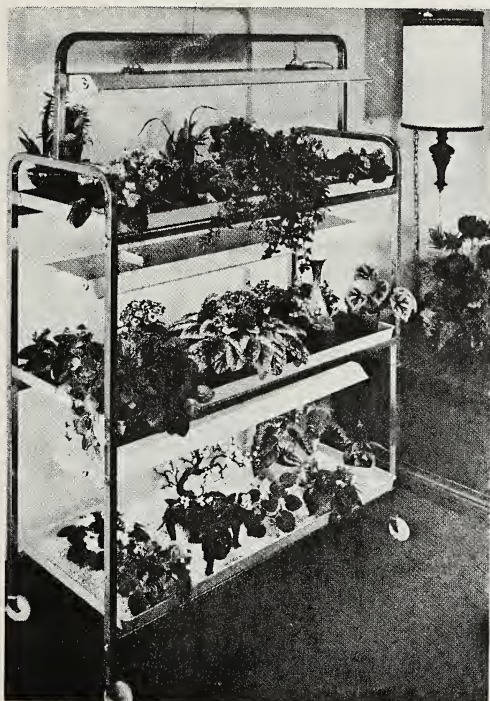
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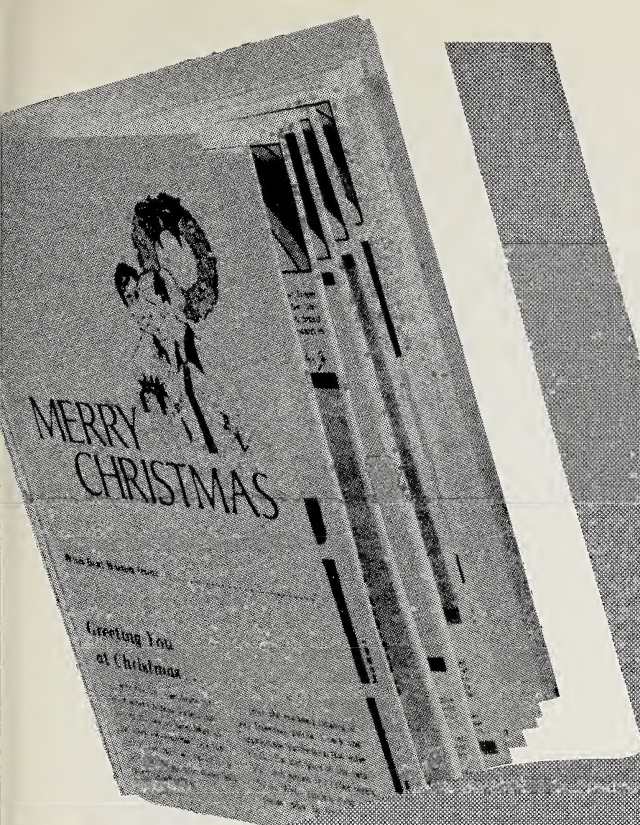
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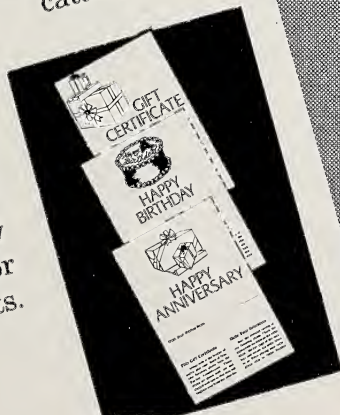


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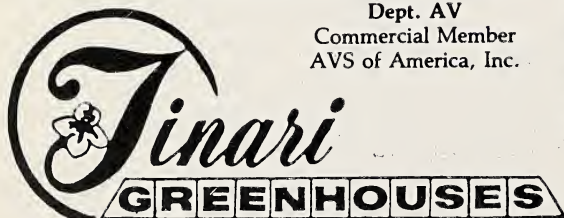
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Arranged alphabetically by subject matter with cross references,
volume, number and page. Pages 2 - 3

Arranged alphabetically by name with title of subject,
volume, number and page Pages 3 - 5

An alphabetical listing by title, author, volume, number
and page Pages 5 - 8

SUBJECT INDEX

A

- Achimenes Vol 31 No 5 p 9
- Affiliate, Birth of Vol 31 No 1 p 30
- African Violet Experiences Vol 31 No 1 p 18, 39, 56, 58, 71, 72; Vol 31 No 2 p 14, 21, 22, 23, 37, 52, 53, 54, 63; Vol 31 No 3 p 35, 47, 51, 52, 56, 63; Vol 31 No 4 p 35, 51, 61, 64; Vol 31 No 5 p 16, 70, 71
- AVSA Affiliates Vol 31 No 5 p 34-41
- AVSA History Vol 31 No 5 p 4
- AVSA Library Vol 31 No 3 p 33
- AVSA Officers, Committee Members, Life Members, Past Presidents Vol 31 No 3 p 40-47
- Answers to Test Program Vol 31 No 1 p 59
- Arrangements Vol 31 No 2 p 56; Vol 31 No 3 p 14

B

- Beginner's Column Vol 31 No 1 p 27; Vol 31 No 2 p 13; Vol 31 No 3 p 21; Vol 31 No 4 p 23; Vol 31 No 5 p 24
- Beginner's encouraged Vol 31 No 3 p 51
- Best Varieties of 1978 Vol 31 No 5 p 51
- Books, "African Violets and Related Plants from Mother Nature" Vol 31 No 5 p 31; "Grow a Plant Pet" Vol 31 No 4 p 37; "African Violets" Seattle AVS Vol 31 No 4 p 22

C

- Carts on Wheels Vol 31 No 1 p 62
- Cassettes with Library Programs Vol 31 No 5 p 46
- Choosing plants Vol 31 No 5 p 24
- Clorox use Vol 31 No 4 p 40
- Color Pages Vol 31 No 1 p 25, 28, 29, 32, 57, 60, 61, 64; Vol 31 No 2 p 25, 28, 29, 32, 57, 60, 61, 64; Vol 31 No 3 p 25, 28, 29, 32, 57, 60, 61, 64; Vol 31 No 4 p 26, 27, 30, 31, 58, 59, 62, 63; Vol 31 No 5 p 25, 28, 29, 32, 57, 60, 61, 64
- Colorado Vol 31 No 5 p 41
- Convention dates Vol 31 No 5 p 14
- Commercial displays Vol 31 No 4 p 16-19
- Convention Winners and Honors Vol 31 No 3 p 14, 12, 20, 22, 23, 38, 47, 53-56; Vol 31 No 4 p 16-19
- Culture
 - Fertilizers and Fertilizing Vol 31 No 4 p 38
 - General culture Vol 31 No 1 p 4; Vol 31 No 3 p 8, 66
 - Hybridizing Vol 31 No 2 p 33
 - Light and Lighting Vol 31 No 1 p 7; Vol 31 No 4 p 65
 - Propagation Vol 31 No 1 p 7, 22; Vol 31 No 2 p 55, 64; Vol 31 No 3 p 39; Vol 31 No 4 p 56, 64
 - Soil Vol 31 No 2 p 11; Vol 31 No 3 p 56; Vol 31 No 5 p 12
 - Water and Watering Vol 31 No 1 p 14, 36; Vol 31 No 2 p 26; Vol 31 No 5 p 47
- Culture Folders Vol 31 No 4 p 25

D

- Delegate to Convention Vol 31 No 5 p 54
- Disbudding Vol 31 No 4 p 11
- Do's and Don'ts Vol 31 No 1 p 55; Vol 31 No 3 p 15

- Drying flowers Vol 31 No 3 p 50; Vol 31 No 4 p 67

E

- Educational tables Vol 31 No 2 p 56; Vol 31 No 5 p 24
- Energy, Efficiency and Enervation in plant room (see Culture)

F

- Foot on the Violet Path Vol 31 No 1 p 56; Vol 31 No 2 p 67; Vol 31 No 3 p 48; Vol 31 No 4 p 61; Vol 31 No 5 p 44

G

- Garden room Vol 31 No 3 p 52
- Garlic (see Insects and Diseases, pesticides)
- Go-alongs with African violets Vol 31 No 3 p 7
- Granger Greenhouses Vol 31 No 5 p 15
- Growing Texas Style Vol 31 No 1 p 14; Vol 31 No 3 p 5; Vol 31 No 5 p 53

H

- Handy helpers Vol 31 No 2 p 4
- Honor Roll of African Violets Vol 31 No 3 p 19
- Hothouse Vol 31 No 2 p 59
- Humane treatment Vol 31 No 1 p 21
- Hyphenated words Vol 31 No 1 p 6

I

- Insects and diseases Vol 31 No 2 p 13; Vol 31 No 4 p 4
- Chart Vol 31 No 4 p 7
- Mites Vol 31 No 2 p 59; Vol 31 No 3 p 16
- Nematodes Vol 31 No 4 Part II p 10
- Pesticides Vol 31 No 2 p 38, 62; Vol 31 No 4 p 60, 66
- Test program Vol 31 No 1 p 24

J

- Judges and teachers Vol 31 No 4 p 42-49
- Judges workshop information Vol 31 No 4 p 12
- Judging schools Vol 31 No 3 p 23

L

- Leaf propagation (see Culture)
- Leaves, kinds of Vol 31 No 1 p 27; yellow Vol 31 No 5 p 11
- Library display Vol 31 No 5 p 10
- Light gardening (see Culture)
- Losing club members Vol 31 No 2 p 20

M

- Memories of convention Vol 31 No 4 p 15
- Miniature and Semiminiature Vol 31 No 1 p 6, 12; Vol 31 No 2 p 24; Vol 31 No 3 p 24; Vol 31 No 4 p 50; Vol 31 No 5 p 55
- Mites (see Insects and Diseases)
- Moving with violets Vol 31 No 3 p 58; Vol 31 No 4 p 41
- Mutant Vol 31 No 5 p 33

N

- Necks Vol 31 No 1 p 8; Vol 31 No 4 p 23, 68
- Novice classes Vol 31 No 3 p 65

O

Orthene (see Insects and Diseases)

P

Patented Vol 31 No 2 p 7
 Pesticides (see Insects and Diseases)
 Photography Vol 31 No 5 p 18
 Plant problems Vol 31 No 4 p 40
 Plant sale Vol 31 No 2 p 15
 Plant stands Vol 31 No 1 p 55; Vol 31 No 3 p 59, 62;
 Vol 31 No 5 p 17
 Portraits Vol 31 No 2 p 58 Ambler; Vol 31 No 3
 13 Rosenfeld; Vol 31 No 4 p 60 Masterson; Vol 31
 No 5 p 27 Johnson, 65 Cook
 Pots Vol 31 No 1 p 14, 59
 Prison visit Vol 31 No 4 p 49
 Pronunciation Vol 31 No 5 p 26

Q

Question Box Vol 31 No 1 p 19; Vol 31 No 2 p 34;
 Vol 31 No 3 p 4, 10; Vol 31 No 4 p 8; Vol 31 No 5
 p 48

R

Registered Vol 31 No 2 p 7
 Research Vol 31 No 2 p 40; Vol 31 No 4 p 55

S

Scavenger Vol 31 No 2 p 56, 66
 Seasonable suggestions Vol 31 No 5 p 45
 Seed to show plant Vol 31 No 1 p 4

Seeds, growing from Vol 31 No 1 p 7
 Selling at AVSA conventions Vol 31 No 5 p 30
 Show plant, how to grow a Vol 31 No 5 p 6
 Sleeves for plants Vol 31 No 2 p 12
 Slides of Western hybrids Vol 31 No 5 p 14
 Soil, pH, mixes (see Culture)
 Species Vol 31 No 1 p 16
 Sterilize peat Vol 31 No 3 p 56
 Strawberry jar Vol 31 No 1 p 33

T

Talking violets Vol 31 No 1 p 69
 Tally Time — 1977 Vol 31 No 2 p 9
 Terrariums Vol 31 No 4 p 51
 Test program (see Insects and Diseases)
 Texas pots (see Pots)
 Texas style (see Growing)
 Timely Tips Vol 31 No 1 p 7, 11, 12, 27, 31, 36, 47,
 59; Vol 31 No 2 p 6, 12, 13, 20, 24, 31, 55, 58; Vol
 31 No 3 p 21, 23, 24, 38, 51, 52, 58, 63; Vol 31 No
 4 p 10, 38, 41, 51, 55, 68; Vol 31 No 5 p 8, 23, 52
 Trailers Vol 31 No 4 p 52, Vol 31 No 5 p 14

W

Warning-broken fluorescent tubes Vol 31 No 5 p 54
 Wedding violets Vol 31 No 4 p 28
 Wick watering (see Culture)

Y

Yearbook Entries Vol 31 No 4 p 29

AUTHOR INDEX

A

AMBLER, CECILE L.: On Being an Affiliated Delegate, Vol 31 No 5 p 54
 ANDERS, MRS. FRANK: Grower Finds New Plant Growing System, Vol 31 No 5 p 70
 ANDERSON, ANDY AND CAROL: Jensen's Gardens—A Tribute, Vol 31 No 2 p 63; Perils In Peat, Vol 31 No 3 p 56
 ANDERSON, MRS. W. F.: Cross Your I's . . . and . . . Dot Your T's, Vol 31 No 1 p 6; Vol 31 No 2 p 7; Vol 31 No 3 p 22; Vol 31 No 5 p 26; Growing Pains Not Painful At All, Vol 31 No 5 p 4

B

BARNARD, JERRY A.: Commercial Views AVSA Convention, Vol 31 No 5 p 30
 BEATTIE, MRS. C. W.: Bigger and Better — But Best? Vol 31 No 4 Part II p 11
 BENKE, MRS. ROSE: Her Way With Violets, Vol 31 No 1 p 56
 BILKEY, PETER C.: Towards True Red, Orange and Yellow-Flowering African Violets, Vol 31 No 2 p 64
 BIRD, MARADELL: Husband Fashions Wrought Iron Shelf, Vol 31 No 1 p 55
 BLAIR, JEAN: Three Cheers For Procrastination, Vol 31 No 4 p 57
 BLOUW, MRS. ALBERT (GERTUDE): Experiments Pay Off, Vol 31 No 5 p 47
 BOGIN, MRS. SIDNEY (ELLIE): Musings From the

"Mini-Mam", Vol 31 No 1 p 12; Vol 31 No 2 p 24; Vol 31 No 3 p 24; Vol 31 No 4 p 50; Vol 31 No 5 p 55; New Dimensions in African Violets, Vol 31 No 5 p 14
 BOSTER, LINDA: Colorado-Tall and Terrific, Vol 31 No 5 p 41
 BOUDREAU, ELIZABETH L.: Beginner's Luck, Vol 31 No 2 p 52
 BOWMAN, KENNETH A.: "Texas Style", the Best of Two Worlds, Vol 31 No 5 p 53
 BROWN, RUTH O.: African Violet Fever, Vol 31 No 4 p 61
 BRUCE, DOLLY: My Violet Love Story, Vol 31 No 2 p 37
 BUCKLEY, GERT: What? A Show? Aw, Forget It!, Vol 31 No 2 p 19
 BURKS, MRS. SAM (ELAINE): Encouragement From An AV Beginner, Vol 31 No 3 p 51
 BURTON, FRANK A.: "Posing Your Posies", Vol 31 No 5 p 18

C

CHAMPION, ETHEL W.: More About Bugs, Vol 31 No 4 p 4
 CHRISTIAN, NINA: Try Harmless Witch's Brew, Vol 31 No 2 p 62
 CHRISTENSEN, ANNE K.: Over 150 Miles of Twisting Road, Vol 31 No 4 p 41
 CLAWSON, CARL H. JR.: Pamper Your Violets In

A Strawberry Jar, Vol 31 No 1 p 33
 CLINGAN, LUCY; Make Mine Violets, Vol 31 No 3 p 63
 COLE, DR. CHARLES L.; Insect Facts, Vol 31 No 2 p 38; Mites Attacking African Violets, Vol 31 No 3 p 16
 COLLINS, REV. LARRY E.; Portable Potables, Vol 31 No 2 p 10
 COMBS, PAUL; Patio Enclosed For Garden Room, Vol 31 No 3 p 52
 COOK, LORETTA; Companions, Vol 31 No 4 p 66
 COPELAND, MRS. SHARON; An Accidental Beginning, Vol 31 No 5 p 71
 CRUSE, MR. JACKIE; Notes from a Novice: Achimenes, Vol 31 No 5 p 9

D

DALE, MONTINE (MONTY); Up the Ladder To Success, Vol. 31 No 1 p 4; Congratulate Me! I'm A Mother!, Vol 31 No 4 p 56
 DANBURY, EDITH HORN; Something Different . . But It Worked!, Vol 31 No 3 p 47
 DAVIS, MRS. ED R.; African Violets Go To Church Vol 31 No 1 p 71
 DAVIS, JODI; Growing African Violets "Texas Style", Vol 31 No 3 p 5
 DESCHAMPS, MARIE; Use Spindles To Make Stands, Vol 31 No 3 p 59
 DESMOND, MARION; African Violet Fever, Vol 31 No 2 p 47
 DICK, MRS. K. (SHARON); Ruth, Vol 31 No 1 p 39
 DILDRINE, DEB; It's Contagious, Vol 31 No 5 p 71
 DILL, MRS. MARJORIE; They Came to Look-They Stayed to Buy, Vol 31 No 2 p 22
 DIXON, VELMA V.; From A Handful To A Houseful, Vol 31 No 2 p 63

E

ECKERT, H. K.; Lighted Plant Stand Furniture Quality, Vol 31 No 3 p 62
 ELBERT, VIRGINIE FOWLER; Grow A Plant Pet, Vol 31 No 4 p 37
 EVANS, BETSY; Wick Watering, Vol 31 No 1 p 36
 EVANS, MRS. BRET; Novice Classes-Who Needs Them? Vol 31 No 3 p 65
 EVERETT, JANICE; Bathing . . . Take Your Violet, Vol 31 No 3 p 56

F

FAULKENBERRY, CLARK; Violets Add Spark Of Life To Home, Vol 31 No 3 p 63
 FIEDLER, MRS. LEON; Send Your Choices, Vol 31 No 1 p 15; Honor Roll Of African Violets, Vol 31 No 3 p 19; 1978 Best Varieties, Vol 31 No 5 p 51
 FISCHER, MARGE; His Attic Is Full Of African Violets, Vol 31 No 2 p 14
 FOOTE, GRACE; A Foote on the Violet Path, Vol 31 No 1 p 56; Vol 31 No 2 p 67; Vol 31 No 3 p 48; Vol 31 No 4 p 61; Vol 31 No 5 p 44

H

HALFORD, JOAN; My Unwelcome Violet Visitor,

Vol 31 No 5 p 16

HALL, HYLLIS; The Go-Alongs, Vol 31 No 3 p 7
 HANSEN, ELISABETH H.; The Shameless Scavenger, Vol 31 No 2 p 66; Choosing A Show Plant, Vol 31 No 5 p 6
 HAWLEY, MRS. C. S.; Question Box, Vol 31 No 1 p 19; Vol 31 No 2 p 34; Vol 31 No 3 p 10; Vol. 31 No 4 p 8; Vol 31 No 5 p 48
 HEBERT, HAZEL; Hybridizes 'Bell Ringing Fool', Vol 31 No 2 p 33
 HENTZ, MRS. JIMMY; Says To Handle Clorox With Care, Vol 31 No 4 p 40
 HORNE, M. L.; Turkey Necks, Vol 31 No 4 p 68
 HUNT, EM; Moon Planting, Vol 31 No 4 p 14

I

IRWIN, MARY C.; Violets For Your Wedding, Vol 31 No 4 p 28

J

JOY, JANE; African Violets "Grow On You", Vol 31 No 2 p 21

K

KARPARIS, KATHY; Violet Beauties, Vol 31 No 3 p 31
 KNAACK, HOWARD S.; How About Making Own AV Pots?, Vol 31 No 1 p 59
 KROGMAN, ADELINE; Mark! You're Terrific, Vol 31 No 4 p 11

L

LaCLAIR, MS. MARY; Preserve Your Prize Blossoms, Vol 31 No 4 p 67
 LEPPARD, CHRISTINE D.; Evaluating Educational Exhibits, Vol 31 No 2 p 56; A Not-So-Dirty Business, Vol 31 No 5 p 12
 LEX, SANDRA; Do I Really Need This?, Vol 31 No 1 p 30
 LIDIAC, MRS. D. J.; A Fading Beauty Candidate for Cosmetic Surgery?, Vol 31 No 1 p 8
 LINEBERG, IRENE; You Can Grow African Violets, Vol 31 No 4 p 51
 LOCKHART, MRS. ROY; Learning Flower Arranging, Vol 31 No 3 p 14

M

MACOMBER, DORI; Originally a Vegetable Operation, Greenhouses Converted to Violets, Vol 31 No 5 p 15
 MARTIN, CARL D.; African Violet Trailers, Vol 31 No 4 p 52
 McCALL, LEE; Create Beautiful World With African Violets, Vol 31 No 2 p 26
 McCOWN, DR. BRENT H.; Continued Research Considered Necessary, Vol 31 No 2 p 40; Towards True Red, Orange and Yellow-Flowering African Violets, Vol 31 No 2 p 64
 McDONALD, JAN; Be Humane, Vol 31 No 1 p 21; Don't Throw Away the Throwaways, Vol 31 No 2 p 56

McFARLAND, WAYNE; Three Steps in Potting Violets, Vol 31 No 2 p 27
 McNICHOLAS, JANCY J.; Moving With African Violets, Vol 31 No 3 p 58
 McQUATER, FLORENCE; My Favorite Odor Is Garlic, Vol 31 No 4 p 66

N

NADEAU, RONN; Finds Orthene Toxic to AV, Vol 31 No 4 p 60
 NELSON, DR. HORACE; Demons In Your AV Collection, Vol 31 No 1 p 24
 NYBO, MRS. L. W. JR.; Success Formula, Vol 31 No 2 p 13

P

PEARCE, MONTE; Man Alive, Vol 31 No 4 p 64
 PEELER, EDYTHE M.; Grow 'Em Large, Vol 31 No 3 p 66
 PIERCE, JOHN H.; Restoring Vigor, Vol 31 No 2 p 6
 PITTMAN, SUNDOWN & HORTENSE; Energy, Efficiency, and Enervation In A Plant Room, Vol 31 No 3 p 8
 POSS, HARRIETTE; Slides Taken Of Western Hybrids, Vol 31 No 5 p 14

R

RETKOVIS, RHODA; The Know-No Season Violet, Vol 31 No 1 p 41
 RICHARDSON, MRS. J. A. W. (ANN); Beginner's Column, Vol 31 No 1 p 27; Vol 31 No 2 p 13; Vol 31 No 3 p 21; Vol 31 No 4 p 23; Vol 31 No 5 p 24
 RITCHIE, MRS. RALPH; Ideas For Your Plant Sale, Vol 31 No 2 p 15
 RUSSELL, CANDY; Finds Remedy For Yellowing Leaves, Vol 31 No 5 p 11
 RYMER, GRACE; Drying Flowers In A Microwave Oven, Vol 31 No 3 p 50

S

SANDS, MRS. D. E. (SHIRLEE); Constructing a Violet Stand, Vol. 31 No 5 p 17
 SCHROEDER, MRE. R. E.; Losing Club Members - Why?, Vol. 31 No 2 p 20
 SCHROEDER, MRS. WYANE (MILDRED); AVSA AFFILIATES, Vol 31 No 1 p 13; Vol 31 No 2 p 16; Vol 31 No 3 p 26; Vol

31 No 4 p 39; Vol 31 No 5 p 27
 SEILER, TOM; Fluorescent Light Gardening, Vol 31 No 4 p 65
 SHULTZ, DR. ALVIN W.; Easy-Made Hothouse, Vol 31 No 2 p 59; More Plantlets From the Same Leaf?;, Vol 31 No 3 p 49; An Experiment in Powders, Vol 31 No 4 p 64; Be Careful With Fluorescent Tubes, Vol 31 No 5 p 54
 SNOWDEN, OLIVE Z.; Spring Show, Vol 31 No 3 p 47
 SPAFFORD, E. MARGARET; Violets Are Her Trademark, Vol 31 No 1 p 18
 STEENBURGEN, LELA; Violets in the Bathtub, Vol 31 No 3 p 35
 STEINKE, NORMAN; Make Your Own Sleeves, Vol 31 No 2 p 12
 STONE, HARVEY L.; Your Library, Vol 31 No 1 p 23; Vol 31 No 2 p 20; Vol 31 No 3 p 27; Vol 31 No 4 p 54; Vol 31 No 5 p 46
 STRICKLAND, ROGER; Terrariums, Vol 31 No 4 p 51
 STROSKE, JUDY; Help Us Serve You Better, Vol 31 No 3 p 15
 SWIFT, SONYA; Happiness Is Doing Good, Vol 31 No 3 p 52

T

TINARI, MRS. FRANK (ANNE); Question Box, Vol 31 No 1 p 19; Vol 31 No 2 p 34; Seasonable Suggestions, Vol 31 No 5 p 45

W

WEAVER, EDGAR M; Plants Have Way of "Talking" Vol 31 No 1 p 69; Alkaline-Acid Relationship Most Important to Plants, Vol 31 No 2 p 11
 WHEELER, MARSHALL; Propagate with Blossom Stems, Vol 31 No 2 p 55
 WHITAKER, MRS. JAMES B.; Leaf Propagation Of African Violets, Vol 31 No 1 p 22
 WHITFIELD, LAILA; Violets On Wheels, Vol 31 No 1 p 62
 WILSON, ROMA; Burglars, Too, Like Violets, Vol 31 No 2 p 54

Y

YOUNG, FRANCES; Handy Helpers in Horticulture, Vol 31 No 2 p 4

TITLES

A

A FADING BEAUTY CANDIDATE FOR COSMETIC SURGERY? Lidiak Vol 31 No 1 p 8
 A FOOTE ON THE VIOLET PATH, Foote Vol 31 No 1 p 56; Vol 31 No 2 p 67; Vol 31 No 3 p 48; Vol 31 No 4 p 61; Vol 31 No 5 p 44
 A NOT-SO-DIRTY BUSINESS, Leppard Vol 31 No 5 p 12
 A PEP TALK FOR DISCOURAGED BEGINNERS,

Richardson Vol 31 No 3 p 21
 A SILENT SALESMAN Vol 31 No 5 p 10
 A TRIBUTE TO SAMMY BALLARD, Nelson Vol 31 No 3 p 31
 A VISIT IN PRISON Vol 31 No 4 p 49
 AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS Vol 31 No 5 p 34
 AFFILIATED LEADERSHIP AWARD PRESENTED TO GLADYS HUDNALL Vol 31 No 3 p 15
 AFRICAN VIOLET BOOK OFF PRESS Vol 31 No 5

p 31
 AFRICAN VIOLET CLINIC IS HELD BY AFFILI-
 ate Vol 31 No 4 p 53
 AFRICAN VIOLET FEVER, Brown Vol 31 No 4 p 61
 AFRICAN VIOLET FEVER, Desmond Vol 31 No 2
 p 47
 AFRICAN VIOLET TRAILERS, Martin Vol 31 No 4
 p 52
 AFRICAN VIOLETS DO HELP, Garden Vol 31 No 4
 Part II p 12
 AFRICAN VIOLETS GO TO CHURCH, Davis Vol
 31 No 1 p 71
 AFRICAN VIOLETS " GROW ON YOU", Joy Vol
 31 No 2 p 21
 AFRICAN VIOLETS, Harrington Vol 31 No 3 p 27
 AFRICAN VIOLETS . . . HIS SPECIALTY Vol 31
 No 2 p 23
 ALKALINE-ACID RELATIONSHIP MOST IM-
 PORTANT TO PLANTS, Weaver Vol 31 No 2
 p 11
 ALLERGIC TO PESTICIDES?—TRY HARMLESS
 WITCH'S BREW, Christian Vol 31 No 2 p 62
 AN ACCIDENTAL BEGINNING, Copeland Vol 31
 No 5 p 71
 AN EXPERIMENT IN POWDERS—FOR CUT
 LEAVES, Shultz Vol 31 No 4 p 64
 AVSA AFFILIATES, Schroeder Vol 31 No 1 p 13;
 Vol 31 No 2 p 16; Vol 31 No 3 p 26; Vol 31 No 4
 p 39; Vol 31 No 5 p 27
 AVSA JUDGES, LIFETIME JUDGES AND TEACH-
 ers - June 1, 1978 Vol 31 No 4 p 42-49
 AVSA LIBRARY Vol 31 No 3 p 33-35
 AVSA OFFICERS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS, LIFE
 MEMBERS, PAST PRESIDENTS Vol 31 No 3
 p 40-47
 AVSA SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS LISTED Vol 31
 No 3 p 38
 AWARDS FOR AFFILIATES Vol 31 No 3 p 55

B

BATHING . . . TAKE YOUR VIOLET Vol 31 No 3
 p 56
 BE CAREFUL WITH FLUORESCENT TUBES,
 Shultz Vol 31 No 5 p 54
 BE HUMANE! MacDonald Vol 31 No 1 p 21
 BEGINNER'S LUCK, Boudreau Vol 31 No 2 p 52
 BIGGER AND BIGGER — BUT BEST? Beattie Vol
 31 No 4 Part II p 11
 BURGLARS, TOO, LIKE VIOLETS, Wilson Vol 31
 No 2 p 54
 BY A MINI . . . UP THE LADDER TO SUCCESS,
 Dale Vol 31 No 1 p 4

C

CAN YOU ANSWER READER'S PROBLEM? Vol 31
 No 4 p 22
 CHOOSING A SHOW PLANT, Hansen Vol 31 No
 5 p 6
 CLINIC IS HELD Vol 31 No 3 p 31
 COLORADO—TALL AND TERRIFIC, Boster Vol
 31 No 5 p 41
 COMING EVENTS Vol 31 No 1 p 70; Vol 31 No 2 p
 17, Vol 31 No 4 p 36; Vol 31 No 5 p 43
 COMMERCIAL DISPLAYS—HIGHLIGHTS AND

IMPRESSIONS, Hawley Vol 31 No 4 p 16
 COMMERCIAL VIEWS AVSA CONVENTION,
 Barnard Vol 31 No 5 p 30
 COMMERCIALS Vol 31 No 5 p 21
 COMPANIONS, Cook Vol 31 No 4 p 66
 CONGRATULATE ME! I'M A MOTHER!, Dale
 Vol 31 No 4 p 56
 CONSTRUCTING A VIOLET STAND, Sands Vol
 31 No 5 p 17
 CONTINUED RESEARCH CONSIDERED NECES-
 SARY, McCown Vol 31 No 2 p 40
 CONVENTION DATES Vol 31 No 5 p 14
 "CORAL RADIANCE" NAMED NEW AVSA IN-
 TRODUCTION Vol 31 No 3 p 55
 CREATE BEAUTIFUL WORLD WITH AFRICAN
 VIOLETS, McCall Vol 31 No 2 p 26
 CROSS YOUR I'S . . . DOT YOUR T'S, Anderson
 Vol 31 No 1 p 6; Vol 31 No 2 p 7; Vol 31 No 3 p
 22; Vol 31 No 5 p 26
 CULTURE FOLDERS ARE AVAILABLE Vol 31 No 4
 p 25

D

DEMONS IN YOUR AV COLLECTION, Nelson Vol
 31 No 1 p 24
 DENVER—THE MILE HIGH CITY WILL HOST
 1979 CONVENTION, Boster Vol 31 No 4 p 38
 DID YOU KNOW? . . . Vol 31 No 5 p 5
 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD TO ANNE
 TINARI Vol 31 No 3 p 22
 DO I REALLY NEED THIS? BIRTH OF AN AFFILI-
 ATE, Lex Vol 31 No 1 p 30
 DO NOT REUSE SOIL Vol 31 No 5 p 52
 DON'T THROW AWAY THE THROWAWAYS,
 MacDonald Vol 31 No 2 p 56
 DORA BAKER RECIPIENT OF DISTINGUISHED
 SERVICE AWARD Vol 31 No 3 p 20
 DRAINAGE IDEA Vol 31 No 4 p 41
 DRYING FLOWERS IN A MICROWAVE OVEN,
 Rymer Vol 31 No 3 p 50

E

EASY-MADE HOTHOUSE, Shultz Vol 31 No 2 p 59
 ELBERTS RECEIVE SILVER MEDAL Vol 31 No 3
 p 49
 ENCOURAGEMENT FROM AN AV BEGINNER,
 Burks Vol 31 No 3 p 51
 ENERGY, EFFICIENCY, AND ENERVATION IN A
 PLANT ROOM, Pittman Vol 31 No 3 p 8
 EVALUATING EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS, Lep-
 pard Vol 31 No 2 p 56
 EXPERIMENTS PAY OFF! Blouw Vol 31 No 5 p 47

F

FERTILIZER PROBLEMS Vol 31 No 4 p 38
 FINDS ORTHENE TOXIC TO AV, Nadeau Vol 31
 No 4 p 60
 FINDS REMEDY FOR YELLOWING LEAVES, Rus-
 sell Vol 31 No 5 p 11
 FIRST CONVENTION—FIRST SHOW, Collins Vol
 31 No 4 p 35
 FLUORESCENT LIGHT GARDENING, Seiler, Vol
 31 No 4 p 65
 FROM A HANDFUL TO A HOUSEFUL, Dixon Vol
 31 No 2 p 63

G

"GROW A PLANT PET" Vol 31 No 4 p 37
 GROW 'EM LARGE, Peeler Vol 31 No 3 p 66
 GROWER FINDS NEW PLANT GROWING SYSTEM, Anders Vol 31 No 5 p 70
 GROWING AFRICAN VIOLETS FROM SEED, Nadeau Vol 31 No 1 p 7
 GROWING AFRICAN VIOLETS "TEXAS STYLE", Davis Vol 31 No 3 p 5
 GROWING PAINS NOT PAINFUL AT ALL—AVSA AS A SEEDLING, Anderson Vol 31 No 5 p 4

H

HANDY HELPERS IN HORTICULTURE, Young Vol 31 No 2 p 4
 HAPPINESS IS—DOING GOOD Vol 31 No 3 p 52
 HER WAY WITH VIOLETS, Benke Vol 31 No 1 p 56
 HIS ATTIC IS FULL OF AFRICAN VIOLETS, Fischer Vol 31 No 2 p 14
 HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARDED MELVA NELSON Vol 31 No 3 p 22
 HONOR ROLL OF AFRICAN VIOLETS, Fiedler Vol 31 No 3 p 19
 HOW ABOUT A BATH? Vol 31 No 4 p 38
 HOW ABOUT MAKING OWN AV POTS? Knaack Vol 31 No 1 p 59
 HOW TO CHOOSE PLANTS, Richardson Vol 31 No 5 p 24
 HOW'S YOUR pH? Vol 31 No 1 p 47
 HUSBAND FASHIONS WROUGHT IRON SHELF Vol 31 No 1 p 55
 HYBRIDIZES "BELL RINGING FOOL", Hebert Vol 31 No 2 p 33

I

IDEAS FOR YOUR PLANT SALE, Ritchie Vol 31 No 2 p 15
 INSECT FACTS, Cole Vol 31 No 2 p 38
 IT'S CONTAGIOUS! Dildrine Vol 31 No 5 p 71

J

JENSEN'S GARDENS—A TRIBUTE, Anderson Vol 31 No 2 p 63
 JUDGES' WORKSHOP INFORMATION, Carey Vol 31 No 4 p 12

K

KILL MITES WITH MITES Vol 31 No 2 p 59

L

LEAF PROPAGATION OF AFRICAN VIOLETS, Whitaker Vol 31 No 1 p 22
 LEARNING FLOWER ARRANGING, Lockhart Vol 31 No 3 p 14
 LET'S NECK!, Richardson Vol 31 No 4 p 23
 LIFE MEMBER—MAUDE COOK Vol 31 No 5 p 65
 LIGHTED PLANT STAND FURNITURE QUALITY Eckert Vol 31 No 3 p 62
 LOSING CLUB MEMBERSHIP-WHY?, Schroeder, Mrs. R. Vol 31 No 2 p 20

M

MAKE MINE VIOLETS, Clingman Vol 31 No 3 p 63
 MAKE YOUR OWN SLEEVES, Steinke Vol 31 No 2 p 12
 MAN ALIVE!, Pearce Vol 31 No 4 p 64

MARK! YOU'RE TERRIFIC! Krogman Vol 31 No 4 p 11
 MEMBERSHIPS ARE AWARDED Vol 31 No 3 p 23
 MESDAMES LIDIAK, DIVER, CRISAFULLI TAKE TOP HONOR AWARDS AT AVSA 1978 SHOW Vol 31 No 3 p 53
 MRS. O. D. ST CLAIR GIVES ADVICE ON GROWING AFRICAN VIOLETS Vol 31 No 1 p 58
 MIST YOUR PLANTS Vol 31 No 4 p 68
 MITES ATTACKING AFRICAN VIOLETS, Cole Vol 31 No 3 p 16
 MORE ABOUT BUGS, Champion Vol 31 No 4 p 4
 MORE PLANTLETS FROM THE SAME LEAF? Shultz Vol 31 No 3 p 49
 MOVING WITH AFRICAN VIOLETS, McNicholas Vol 31 No 3 p 58
 MUSINGS FROM THE "MINI-MAM", Bogin Vol 31 No 1 p 12; Vol 31 No 2 p 24; Vol 31 No 3 p 24; Vol 31 No 4 p 50; Vol 31 No 5 p 55
 MY FAVORITE ODOR IS GARLIC, McQuater Vol 31 No 4 p 66
 MY UNWELCOME VIOLET VISITOR, Halford Vol 31 No 5 p 16
 MY VIOLET LOVE STORY, Breece Vol 31 No 2 p 37
 MY VIOLETS, Clingman Vol 31 No 5 p 69

N

NEMATODES Vol 31 No 4 Part II p 10
 NEW DIMENSIONS IN AFRICAN VIOLETS, Bogin Vol 31 No 5 p 14
 NEW 1978 HANDBOOK—PURPLE COVER, Carey Vol 31 No 3 p 18
 1978 BEST VARIETIES, Fiedler, Vol 31 No 5 p 51
 NOT FOR COMMERCIALS ONLY—HELP US SERVE YOU BETTER, Stroske Vol 31 No 3 p 15
 NOTES FROM A NOVICE: ACHIMENES, Cruse Vol 31 No 5 p 9
 NOVICE CLASSES—WHO NEEDS THEM?, Evans Vol 31 No 3 p 65

O

ON BEING AN AFFILIATE DELEGATE, Ambler Vol 31 No 5 p 54
 ORIGINALLY A VEGETABLE OPERATION, GREENHOUSES CONVERTED TO VIOLETS, Macomber Vol 31 No 5 p 15
 OVER 150 MILES OF TWISTING ROAD—ONLY TWO LEAVES BROKEN, Christensen Vol 31 No 4 p 41

P

PATIO ENCLOSED FOR GARDEN ROOM Vol 31 No 3 p 52
 PAMPER YOUR VIOLETS IN A STRAWBERRY JAR, Clawson, Jr. Vol 31 No 1 p 33
 PERILS IN PEAT, Anderson Vol 31 No 3 p 56
 PESTS AND DISEASES, Richardson Vol 31 No 2 p 13
 PLANTS HAVE WAY OF "TALKING" Vol 31 No 1 p 69
 POPULARITY OF ACHIMENES Vol 31 No 5 p 54
 PORTABLE POTABLES, Collins Vol 31 No 2 p 10

PORTRAITS VOL 31 No 2 p 58 Ambler; Vol 31 No
 3 p 13 Rosenfeld; Vol 31 No 4 p 60 Masterson;
 Vol 31 No 5 p 27 Johnson, 65 Cook
 "POSING YOUR POSIES", Burton Vol 31 No 5 p 18
 PRESERVE YOUR PRIZE BLOOMS, LaClair Vol 31
 No 4 p 67
 PRESIDENT CITATION AWARDS ARE MADE
 Vol 31 No 3 p 47
 PROPAGATE WITH BLOSSOM STEMS, Wheeler
 Vol 31 No 2 p 55

Q

QUESTION BOX, Tinari Vol 31 No 1 p 19; Vol 31
 No 2 p 34; Hawley Vol 31 No 3 p 10; Vol 31 No 4
 p 8; Vol 31 No 5 p 48
 "QUESTION BOX" PROVIDES SERVICE TO
 AVSA READERS—A BOOK OF INFORMA-
 TION, Vol 31 No 3 p 4

R

REGISTERING JUDGING SCHOOLS Vol 31 No 3
 p 13
 RESEARCH WORK CONTINUING AT PENN
 STATE UNIVERSITY Vol 31 No 4 p 55
 REVISED EDITION OF AVSA HANDBOOK Vol 31
 No 2 p 16
 "RUTH", Dick Vol 31 No 1 p 39

S

SAYS TO HANDLE CLOROX WITH CARE, Hentz
 Vol. 31 No 4 p 40
 SEASONABLE SUGGESTIONS, Tinari Vol 31 No 5
 p 45
 SEATTLE AVS HAS BOOKLET Vol 31 No 4 p 22
 SEATTLE AVSA WINNER Vol 31 No 4 p 37
 SEPARATING PLANTLETS VOL 31 No 5 p 23
 SLIDES TAKEN OF WESTERN HYBRIDS, Poss
 Vol 31 No 5 p 14
 SOMETHING DIFFERENT—BUT IT WORKED!,
 Horn Vol 31 No 3 p 47
 SPECIES COLLECTION SEEN AT CONVENTION
 Vol 31 No 1 p 16
 SPRING SHOW, Snowden Vol 31 No 3 p 47
 STAND UP AND BE COUNTED!, Tinari Vol 31
 No 4 p 15

T

TALLY TIME, Reed Vol 31 No 2 p 9
 TERRARIUMS, Strickland Vol 31 No 4 p 51
 TEXAS GROWER IS AWARDED BRONZ MEDAL
 CERTIFICATE Vol 31 No 3 p 20
 TEXAS POTS, Shultz Vol 31 No 1 p 14
 "TEXAS STYLE", THE BEST OF TWO WORLDS,
 Bowman Vol 31 No 5 p 53
 THE DO'S AND THE DON'TS Vol 31 No 1 p 55
 THE GO-ALONGS, Hall Vol 31 No 3 p 7
 THE KNOW-NO SEASON VIOLET, Retkovis Vol
 31 No 1 p 41
 THE MIGHTY MINI, Bogin Vol 31 No 1 p 6
 THE SHAMELESS SCAVENGER, Hansen Vol 31 No
 2 p 66

THE VIOLETS SPEAK, Mason Vol 31 No 4 p 5
 THEY CAME TO LOOK—THEY STAYED TO
 BUY!, Dill Vol 31 No 2 p 22
 THREE CHEERS FOR PROCRASTINATION!, Blair
 Vol 31 No 4 p 57
 THREE STEPS IN POTTING VIOLETS Vol 31 No 2
 p 27
 THIS IS MY WIFE, Smith Vol 31 No 3 p 27
 TOWARDS TRUE RED, ORANGE AND YELLOW
 . . . FLOWERING AFRICAN VIOLETS . . . A-
 SEXUAL HYBRIDIZATION OF SAINTPAULIA
 AND EPISCIA, Bilkey and McCown Vol 31 No 2
 p 64
 TO REMOVE SUCKERS Vol 31 No 5 p 8
 TURKEY NECKS, Horne Vol 31 No 4 p 68

U

USE SPINDLES TO MAKE STANDS, Deschamps
 Vol 31 No 3 p 59

V

VERBS TO VIOLETS, Baker Vol 31 No 2 p 53
 VIOLET BEAUTIES, Karpas Vol 31 No 3 p 31
 VIOLET NAMED FOR GOV. PRYOR Vol 31 No 1
 p 27
 VIOLETS ADD SPARK OF LIFE TO HOME, Faul-
 kenberry Vol 31 No 3 p 63
 VIOLETS ARE HER TRADEMARK, Spafford Vol
 31 No 1 p 18
 VIOLETS FOR YOUR WEDDING, Irwin Vol 31 No
 4 p 28
 VIOLETS IN THE BATHTUB!, Steenburgen Vol 31
 No 1 p 27
 VIOLETS ON WHEELS, Whitfield Vol 31 No 1 p 62

W

WATCH YOUR PLANTS Vol 31 No 4 p 40
 "WEE LASS" MUTANT Vol 31 No 5 p 33
 WHAT? A SHOW? AW, FORGET IT!, Buckley
 Vol 31 No 2 p 19
 WHAT'S MY FATE? Kostulias Vol 31 No 3 p 9
 WICK WATERING, Evans Vol 31 No 1 p 36
 WILL YOU JOIN?, Retkovis Vol 31 No 5 p 47
 WINTERS DREAM?, Garden Vol 31 No 4 Part II
 p 12

Y

YEARBOOK AWARDS Vol 31 No 3 p 56
 YEARBOOK ENTRIES AT CONVENTION Vol 31
 No 4 p 29
 YEARBOOK ENTRIES OF DENVER CONVEN-
 TION Vol 31 No 4 p 29
 YOU CAN GROW AFRICAN VIOLETS Vol 31
 No 4 p 51
 YOU KNOW YOUR LEAVES?, Richardson Vol 31
 No 1 p 27
 YOUR LIBRARY, Stone Vol 31 No 1 p 23; Vol 31 No
 2 p 20; Vol 31 No 3 p 27; Vol 31 No 4 p 54; Vol 31
 No 5 p 46







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